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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should non-NMI descent U.S. citizens be allowed to vote on issues relating to Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

New Series

TV series *Finu' Chamorro* premieres at the American Memorial Park theater.

LOCAL...Page 7

Continued Growth

U.S. auto sales are poised for a second straight year of growth.

BUSINESS...Page 13

Edgy Shows

Indian TV is now showing some of America's edgiest shows, without the edge.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Medicaid program now serves 16,931 beneficiaries. PAGE 3
Public library sees 31-percent drop in customers. PAGE 6

NMI faces $370M cumulative deficit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The $25.8 million budget deficit in fiscal year 2011 brings the "estimated" total cumulative deficit to $370 million—more than triple the government's current budget of $102 million.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the $370 million cumulative deficit includes the government's unpaid employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Budget deficit is a combination of overspending and revenue shortfall.

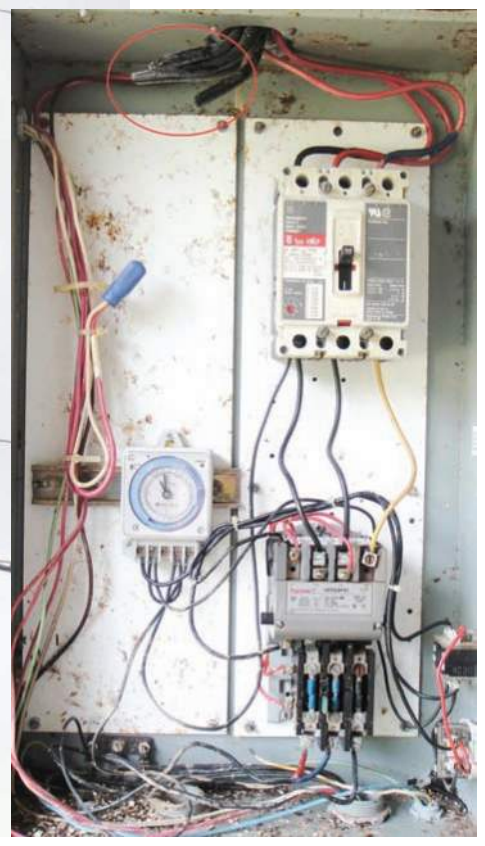
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told the Legislature that the government overspent by over $25.2 million and had a revenue shortfall of $565,456 in fiscal year 2011, at a time when the budget was $122 million and despite the biweekly 16-hour work cuts, unpaid holidays for most government employees, and other austerity measures.

» Basa says 'alarming' problem needs more aggressive approach

Basa

Demapan said the fiscal year 2011 over-

See DEFICIT on Page 4



Wire thieves target CUC water wells

The rampant theft of power drop service lines to the island's wells is hindering water service to various areas on Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"The theft has caused three different wells to no longer be able to produce water," according to operations engineer Travis Spaeth. "The theft of the drop lines prevented the motors from working as they cannot provide power to the motor without the drop lines."

One well has been vandalized for the eighth time, its drop line stolen by copper wire thieves.

According to Spaeth, two wells in the Obyan area have recently been vandalized. These wells provide water services to San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Oleai, and Afetnas areas and affects customers from As Lito all the way to Chalan Laulau.

"With two wells out of production, they lose approximately 100 gallons per minute or 144,000 gallons per day," he said.

Power drop lines to wells in the Kagman area have also been stolen. These wells provide 72,000 gallons of water per day and services residents in the Papago and San Vicente areas.

In addition to the thefts, CUC also reports that

See WIRE THIEVES on Page 4

CUC

The theft of drop lines and vandalism on several wells around the island is affecting the delivery of water to several areas on Saipan. Encircled sections of these two photos show the lines that have been cut by copper thieves.

US citizen sues to be allowed to vote on Article 12 issues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Marianas High School vice principal John H. Davis Jr. is suing the Commonwealth Election Commission to stop it from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote on any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issue.

Davis, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to declare that Article 18 Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates the 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and is in-

See ARTICLE 12 on Page 4

Local

25-percent decline in 2011 vehicle sales—CADA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Auto dealers reported an almost 25-percent drop in new vehicle sales in 2011, after posting a 28-percent sales increase in 2010, according to a Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association report issued yesterday.

The report shows that CADA sold only 454 new cars, vans, trucks, and sport utility vehicles in 2011, down from 602 sold in 2010 and from 469 sold in 2009.

Douglas Brennan, secretary of CADA, attributed the sales decrease to a host of different factors that include the slow economy, the impact of the Japan quake and tsunami on auto supplies, and immigration uncertainties that make consumers hold on to their dollars.

Brennan, who is also manager of Microl Corp. that distributes Toyota and Chevrolet units in the CNMI, said that Microl alone experienced almost four months of supply disruption as a result of the March 2011 disasters in Japan where they source their items.

"But Microl sales were better than what we had expected. It could have been better but it could have been much, much worse," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Brennan hopes that CADA would be able to sell more vehicles in 2012, or at least the same number as 2011.

Microl Corp. sold 183 new vehicles in 2011, a 31-percent decline from the previous year's 266.

Joeten Motors, the authorized dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia, sold 159 units compared to 208 the previous year—a decrease of 24 percent.

Triple "J" Motors posted the least percentage decrease of 12 percent by selling 112 new vehicles in 2011 compared to 128 the previous year. Triple "J" Motors is the distributor of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda.

In December alone, CADA sold 46 new vehicles compared to 57 last year—a decline of 19 percent.

Of the 46 sold vehicles last month, 20 were sold by Microl, 14 by Joeten Motors, and 12 by Triple "J" Motors.

Cars remained the top vehicle of choice in 2011 with a total of 201 sold, followed by 125 SUVs, 87 trucks and 41 vans.

Among cars, Toyota Yaris was the most in-demand with 31 sold in 2011, followed by Toyota Corolla with 29 and Mazda3 with 19.

The other cars sold in 2011 were 18 Kia Soul, 16 Hyundai Elantra, 14 Toyota Camry, 12 Mazda2, 11 Hyundai Accent, 10 Nissan Altima, six Ford Fiesta, four each of Honda Accord, Honda Civic and Kia Rio, three each of Kia Forte, Nissan Sentra and Toyota Prius, two each of Honda Fit, Hyundai Genesis Cp, Hyundai Veloster, Nissan 370Z and Nissan Maxima, and

See DECLINE on Page 4

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Student Center, Building J
Student Orientation
January 12, 2012
1st Session: 9am to 12pm
2nd Session: 4pm to 7pm
NMC Library, Building O
Late Registration
January 17 to 20, 2012
First Day for Spring Classes
January 17, 2012
English Placement Test
(Held in the English Lab, Bldg. M):
Jan 3 (Tue) 9am-4pm
Jan 4 (Wed) 9am-6pm
Jan 5 (Thu) 9am-6pm
Jan 6 (Fri) 9am-2pm
Jan 9 (Mon) 9am-4pm
Jan 10 (Tue) 9am-6pm
Jan 11 (Wed) 9am-6pm
Jan 12 (Thu) 9am-4pm
Jan 13 (Fri) 9am-2pm
(Appointments recommended, please call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 2017/2009)
Math Placement Tests
(Held in Bldg. A, Room 9):
Jan 3 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Jan 5 (Thu) 10am-12pm or 5pm-7pm
Jan 10 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Jan 12 (Thu) 10am-12pm or 5pm-7pm
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Wiseman: Many lawyers very lax in complying with pretrial orders

» Judge warns of sanctions beginning New Year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman scored what he described as the "very lax" attitude of many lawyers when it comes to complying with pretrial orders and warned that sanctions will be imposed beginning this new year.

Wiseman said he has raised this concern on many occasions when there were several attorneys present in the court.

"However, the court has seen little to no improvement in counsel's lax treatment of the court's pretrial orders," the judge said in an order issued on Dec. 30.

Wiseman said there are, of course, exceptions but his message is directed to the majority of lawyers practicing before his court.

Wiseman

Wiseman discussed the issue in his order denying a change of plea being asked in a criminal case against Rhiner Aguon Tiberke, without any written motion or difficult circumstances to justify a negotiated change of plea.

The judge said that Tiberke can change his plea at any time but at this stage of the proceeding it would not be with a plea agreement that the court would consider.

Tiberke was arrested in June 2011 after he allegedly beat up his wife and threatened her with a machete at their home in San Vicente.

According to court records, Tiberke's jury trial is scheduled on Jan. 9, 2012. On Dec. 27, 2011, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, representing Tiberke, asked to address the court on this case, which was not scheduled at that time. Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing, who was present, did not object.

Meyer told the court that Tiberke now wishes to change his plea instead of proceeding to trial. Wiseman expressed concerns regarding this untimely request and took the matter under advisement.

In his written order issued on Dec. 30, Wiseman said this case first came on for a change of plea hearing on Oct. 19, 2011, and Tiberke declined to go forward with the change of plea. As a result, Wiseman said he set the jury trial on Jan. 9, 2012, with a pretrial conference on Dec. 13, 2011, which was continued to Dec. 27, 2011.

At the time of Tiberke's request on Dec. 27, jury summons had already been issued, informing prospective jurors to report on Jan. 9, 2012.

Wiseman said these prospective jurors face the hardship of making changes, plans, and accommodations to their daily life in order to try to meet the jury summons demand.

"Witnesses have been subpoenaed and other pretrial preparation of the court and presumably by the lawyers for the parties have been made," Wiseman said.

Despite all these, Tiberke now wants to deviate from the pretrial order and have a change of plea in lieu of the trial for which such activities are and have been prepared for, Wiseman said.

He pointed out that Meyer did not attend the pretrial conference as required.

"In addition, two other provisions that are applicable to this order are that the court will not accept any negotiated plea after the conference unless there are some exigent circumstances and the parties must confirm to the court that they are prepared to go to trial," the judge said.

At the hearing, Wiseman pointed out, there was no indication that the matter would not go to trial nor that the parties were not ready to proceed.

He ordered the parties in the case and all lawyers practicing before his court to comply with all the terms of the pretrial order.

Wiseman notified the lawyers that "the court will consider imposing sanctions for violation thereof beginning with the New Year."

Medicaid program now serves 16,931 beneficiaries

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Medicaid administrator Helen C. Sablan disclosed yesterday that the program now has a total of 16,931 clients since the beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 and the number is expected to climb through the end of the 12-month period in September 2012.

She said the number of people enrolled in the program increases every year and she already expects a 5- to 10-percent rise in enrollment in fiscal year 2012.

This projection may change, however, depending on the impact of federalization on contract workers who have U.S. citizen children that are eligible for Medicaid benefits.

Sablan disclosed that her office had 14,700 clients in fiscal year 2010. This fiscal year, new customers now total 2,231, which represent a 15.1-percent increase.

Among the factors contributing to the rise in Medicaid members are the large number of newborns and changes in parents' employment statuses. Another is the work-hour reduction being implemented in both the government and private sectors.

Sablan also cited the large number of families who dropped their health insurance due to high premium rates. "They dropped their health insurance because they just can't afford it," she said.

Hundreds of people dropping their health insurance has resulted in the dramatic increase of clients in many government programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and medical referral.

About three years ago, the Medicaid program had only a little over 10,000 clients.

According to Sablan, the Medicaid program requires a specific threshold amount for poverty level. Clients are strictly U.S. citizens and mostly comprise employees who experienced cuts in work hours.

In the past, the program required a 50-50 sharing between local and federal governments, which meant that for every $1 spent, the CNMI had to find 50 cents as matching fund. However, because of President Barrack Obama's Affordable Healthcare Act, the matching ratio was changed to 45-55 and will remain so until 2019.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the government is having a hard time finding the matching funds for the Medicaid program.

Sablan said that the CNMI has no control over the number of Medicaid clients it serves.

"We can't do that [put a cap] because it's against federal law. We have bracket and criteria based on income and resources," she explained.

She hopes, however, that Congress will reduce the local matching share for all territories and insular areas.

Two more staff

Sablan also said yesterday that Medicaid will soon have a total of five personnel—including herself—to work on the increasing number of applications and recurring backlogs. The program used to have only three staff.

She said that two trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency are being converted into permanent employees and they will assist the program's lone eligibility worker and accounting staffer. All five will be paid using the program's budget.

"Our biggest challenges: limited resources and staffing. We have only one eligibility worker working on all applications and processing. We're really in a backlog, which is the reason why we only open during mornings so [Rose Benito] can process them in the afternoon," she said.

Sablan said the program receives a maximum of 50 visits on a peak day. For the office to function efficiently, she said she may need two to three more personnel.

Tinian's proposed $3M budget includes $80K in retro pay for 100-plus employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation is poised to pass this afternoon a $3 million municipal budget for fiscal year 2012 that includes some $80,000 in retroactive pay for over 100 government employees.

The estimated $3 million budget for fiscal year 2012 is higher than the $1.2 million in actual collection from the casino industry in fiscal year 2011, said Tinian delegation chair and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

Hofschneider said the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's aggressive marketing campaign and brighter prospects gave them optimism that projected revenues will reach $3 million in 2012.

But in a session yesterday afternoon, the four-member delegation held off action on the budget bill because of remaining concerns about provisions such as work hour cuts and other austerity measures.

"But we hope to pass it Wednesday afternoon when we resume the session. If we pass this, this will be the first time since 2006 that Tinian will have a municipal budget," Hofschneider said.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz asked the delegation to include funds for retroactive payment in the local budget, lawmakers said.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said there's about $80,000 in retroactive pay that will be divided among over 100 Tinian employees. He said many will receive an equal amount of $500 each, but others will get less than that.

"I spoke to one of them and he said he only has $12 that's still unpaid so that's the only amount he will get," Conner added.

There was originally some $1 million in retroactive pay owed Tinian government employees. About half of that has already been paid, while some $480,000 has yet to be paid.

Of the estimated $480,000, only $80,000 can be accommodated in the 2012 budget. Hofschneider pointed out that the retroactive pay is a central government obligation but the Tinian delegation has been looking for ways to pay for it.

"If it were up to me and if we have enough funds, I would like to pay all the retroactive pay that employees are entitled to. Many of these employees already passed away before getting their retro pay," he added.

The Tinian municipal budget comes from revenues generated from the casino industry on island, which so far has only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Hofschneider said the budget will fund the salaries of at least 27 individuals on Tinian, including two Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members paid over $100,000 each inclusive of salary and benefits; 19 administrative personnel of the Commission including the legal counsel, paid also at over $100,000 annually; and inspectors, three at the Mayor's Office and three at the Tinian Municipal Treasury.

$58,000 for Tinian scholarships

During yesterday's session, the delegation passed Conner's House Local Bill 17-66, which appropriates a total of $58,000 in collections from poker machines on Tinian for scholarships.

Of the total amount, $32,187 will be appropriated to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship. The remaining $25,813 was reappropriated for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

Besides Hofschneider and Conner, the two other delegation members who voted "yes" to pass the bill were Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

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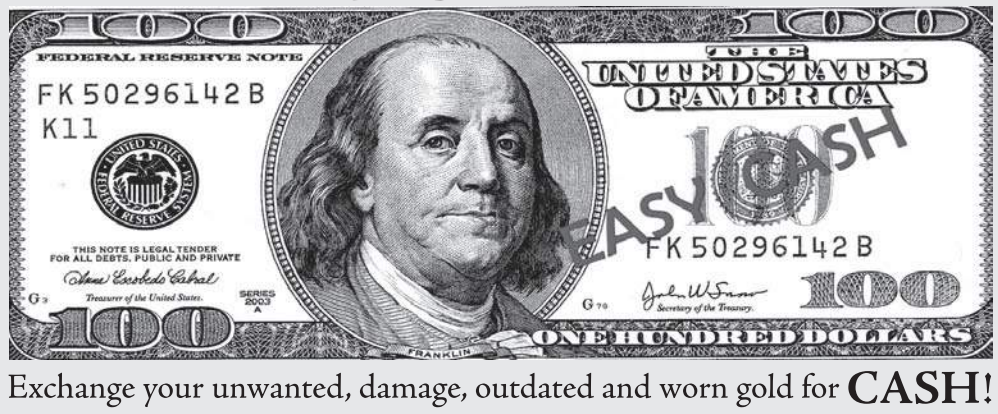
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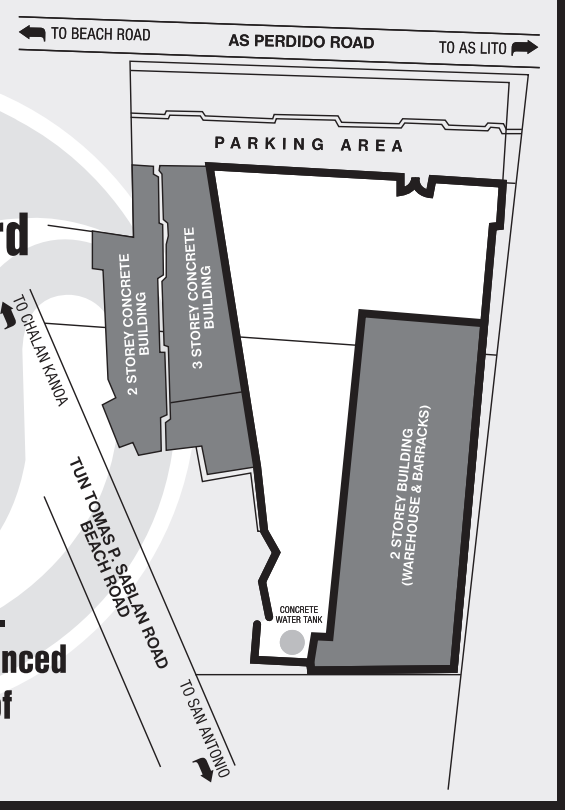

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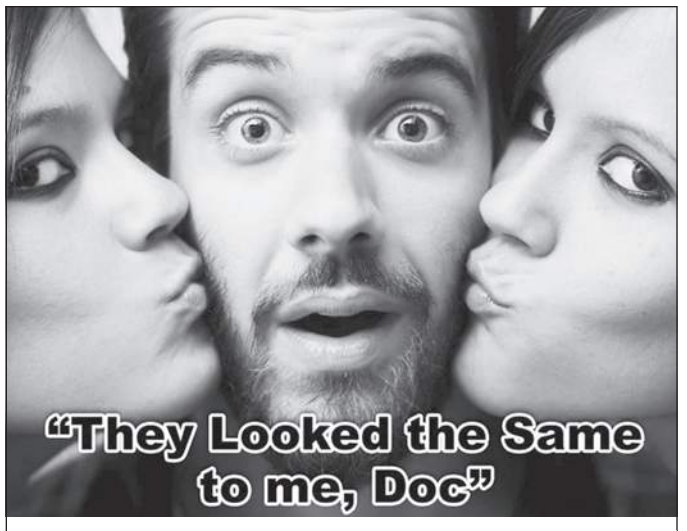

Norman picked up the small tube of eye medicine, leaned back, and placed the ointment into his eye. Only one problem: it wasn't eye ointment. Norman had accidentally picked up the tube of super-glue. In an instant his left eye was sealed shut. For five days. Using a gentle touch and the newest medicines, Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. Mark Robertson ensured that Norman avoided permanent damage and fully regained his vision.

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Fitial names Palacios DLNR secretary; re-appoints 2 board members

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated former Republican speaker Arnold I. Palacios to serve as Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary, some eight months after Palacios got his old job back as DLNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife director.

Palacios has also been serving as acting DLNR secretary since the post was vacated by Dr. Ike Dela Cruz.

Palacios was DFW director for 12 years or from 1984 to 1996, prior to becoming a lawmaker. He also served as fisheries data program manager at DFW before becoming division director.

Palacios

Fitial submitted Palacios' name to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) for consideration. The nomination requires the Senate's advice and consent.

"Mr. Palacios is extremely qualified to fulfill the vital responsibility of this office. The Lt. Governor and I look forward to having an experienced and capable person to fulfill this vital role, and we feel that Mr. Palacios is the right choice," Fitial told Manglona in a Dec. 29 letter, a copy of which was obtained only yesterday.

Fitial told reporters in March that Palacios would be a formidable delegate candidate for the Republicans in the 2012 elections. Fitial is now chairman of the Republican Party.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, said yesterday he has yet to see the nomination letter but said his panel has been working with the administration to fill Cabinet positions, along with boards and commissions.

2 re-appointments

The governor also re-appointed Alvaro Santos and Gregoria Fitial-Omar on Dec. 29 to serve on the Marianas Public Land Trust board. Their re-appointment also requires the Senate's advice and consent.

Santos represents Saipan on the MPLT board. If confirmed by the Senate, he will serve another six-year term that will expire on Jan. 8, 2018.

Omar represents the Carolinian community and women's sector on the MPLT board. Just like Santos, Omar's term if confirmed will be renewed for another six years or until Jan. 8, 2018.

"The Lt. Governor and I realize the trustees play an important role in the continued development of the Commonwealth, and have every confidence that you will continue to conscientiously devote your time and efforts in the best interests of all our people," Fitial said in his appointment letters.

Tinian Dynasty asks court to set conference hearing in FICA suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is asking the federal court to set a conference hearing in connection with its lawsuit against the U.S. government to recover what it claims were wrongfully assessed taxes.

Attorney G. Anthony Long, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday that a scheduling conference has not been held in the case. Accordingly, Long said, a scheduling order has not been issued by the district court.

He said that a scheduling conference is proper as the defendant has been served with the summons and complaint. The U.S. government, Long said, has filed an answer to the complaint.

"This makes the case ripe for a scheduling conference," he added.

Hong Kong Entertainment and the defunct Rifu Apparel Corp. sued the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes (collectively called FICA) that were erroneously paid before.

Eleven other defunct garment factories as well as the former Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. and numerous Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies also filed last year separate but similar lawsuits against the U.S. government.

The plaintiffs alleged that they erroneously withheld the taxes from the wages of their then employees and paid them to the U.S. government.

Last Dec. 29, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered the owners of the 11 defunct garment manufacturers to explain why the court should not dismiss their lawsuit for lack of prosecution.

The judge noted that the case has been pending for more than one year without any action being taken by the parties in that period.

DELEGATION SESSION
From left, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) review documents during a session of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation yesterday afternoon. The session resumes today to pass a $3 million municipal budget that includes retroactive pay for over 100 employees.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 3

WIRE THIEVES

From Page 1

several wells have been out of service due to a two-month delay in receiving replacement parts. The wells that were awaiting parts serve customers in Chalan Laulau, Dandan, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Fina Sisu, and Kannat Tabla.

CUC recently received the parts and started installing replacement units yesterday, Jan. 3. CUC is asking customers to conserve water as it is experiencing poor water service in areas due to system repairs and a numbers of wells out of service.

"CUC would like the public's assistance on preventing any further theft of cable by reporting any suspicious activities to the [police] or calling the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. CUC apologizes for the reduction in water services and hopes with the help of the public we can prevent situations like these in the future," a CUC statement said. ***(CUC)***

DEFICIT

From Page 1

expenditure rate "is net of the austerity measures, which equaled some $16 million in funds that the government did not have to pay to government employees."

"As you can see in the report, the bulk of the deficit was caused by [the hospital], Medicaid, patient referral, and government utilities," he added.

Demapan said there is no additional austerity measure being planned at this time.

The administration is awaiting a fiscal year 2013 budget call from the Office of Management and Budget.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said it is "shocking" to have a $25.8 million deficit in just one fiscal year, and "alarming" to have a $370 million cumulative deficit.

"Surprised is a light term. It's shocking. Overspending is certainly not helping our financial situation. We should be frugal and try to live within our means. We have to further tighten our belt," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Basa said all the efforts in trying to come up with a balanced and timely budget are wasted when, at the end of the fiscal year, there's excessive overspending recorded.

"We don't want to be like Greece and other places that file for bankruptcy. I hate to say this but we're already heading toward that direction," he said, adding that the government needs a more aggressive approach in budgeting and generating revenues.

Basa, a freshman lawmaker, said he will be communicating with international companies such as shoemakers and auto makers to consider setting up shop in the CNMI.

"What we need is bring in outside investments, fresh new capital, and new jobs. If we could bring in manufacturing companies here just like the garment factories of years ago, then that would help the economy," he added.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said that, while she has yet to receive a copy of the governor's financial report to the Legislature, the big question mark is how the government managed to have a $25.8 million deficit in just a year.

"But I will get the full details Wednesday. Our goal has always been to ensure that the government [will] live within its means and operate without deficit," she said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and the Fitial administration expect that the transition of the Department of Public Health into the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Oct. 1, 2011, would result in a much lower deficit in 2012.

About $19.9 million of the $25.2 million in overspending in fiscal year 2011—covering the period from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011—was at DPH's medical referral, Medicaid, and Commonwealth Health Center.

The Executive Branch's overspending was almost $20.2 million, the Judiciary was at $170,897, and the Legislature, at $11,156.

Rota exceeded its allotment by $433,761, while Tinian had a surplus of $4,274.

A CNMI Single Audit for fiscal year 2009 showed that the general fund's unreserved fund deficit stood at $300.8 million. There is no audited report yet for fiscal year 2010. But with the Fitial administration's estimate of some $370 million in cumulative deficit in 2011, this means the deficit grew by some $70 million in two years.

The 2009 deficit was $256.3 million.

ARTICLE 12

From Page 1

valid, null, and void.

Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of Northern Marianas descent. It is up for voters' review later this year.

Article 18 Section 5(c) states that "in the case of a proposed amendment to Article 12…the word 'voters'…shall be limited to eligible voters under Article 7 who are also persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article 12 Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters."

Davis also named as co-defendants CEC chair Frances M. Sablan, CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera, and Senate President Paul A. Manglona.

David also asked the court to declare Public Law 17-40 as invalid, null, and void as it violates the U.S. Constitution's 14th and 15th Amendments. P.L. 17-40, which was signed into law in April 2001, requires that only persons of NMI descent or Chamorro and Carolinian descent can vote on any changes affecting Article 12.

Davis wants the court to permanently bar the defendants from denying him and other U.S. citizens who are not NMI descent the right to vote.

Rayphand stated in the complaint that the Legislature, in enacting P.L. 17-40, established a race-based registry for the purpose of disenfranchising U.S. citizens who are not of Chamorro or Carolinian descent.

Rayphand said that issues regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution will be decided in the November 2012 election. Based on Article 18 Section 5(c) and P.L. 17-40, Rayphand said that Davis will be denied the right to vote on issues regarding Article 12.

"Amendment 15 of the United States Constitution states that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude," the lawyer said.

Amendment 15, Rayphand asserted, is applicable within the NMI as if the NMI were one of the several states.

"The Commonwealth has no compelling interest in dividing its citizens into two classes based on race and discriminating against those citizens in one class and favoring those in the other," she said.

DECLINE

From Page 2

one each of Ford Taurus, Hyundai Azera, Nissan Cube, and Nissan Versa.

Hyundai Tucson was the most saleable SUV in 2011, with 25 new units sold, followed by Toyota RAV4 with 19 and Nissan Rogue, 16.

The other SUVS sold from January to December 2011 included 14 Toyota 4 Runner, nine each of Kia Sportage and Toyota Highlander, seven Mazda CX7, five each of Mazda CX9 and Nissan Pathfinder, three each of Nissan Murano and Toyota FJ Cruiser, two each of Ford Edge and Hyundai Veracruz, and one each of Ford Escape, Honda Element, Nissan Armada, Nissan Juke, Nissan Xterra, and Suzuki G. Vitara.

Of the 87 trucks sold last year, 41 were Toyota Tacoma, 26 were Ford Ranger and 16 were Nissan Frontier. Other trucks sold included two Ford Sport Trac and one each of Ford E/F-Series and Nissan Titan.

Toyota Sienna dominated the vans market with 19 units sold in 2011, followed by seven Nissan Quest, five B-Bird Buses, four Mazda5, three Ford E-Van, and one each of Honda Odyssey, Kia Sedona, and GM Vans.

When it comes to market share by franchise, Toyota was the most saleable with 182 units sold in 2011, followed by Nissan with 70, Hyundai with 59, Mazda with 47, Ford with 42, Kia with 35, Honda with 12, five "all others" and one each of GM/Chevrolet and Suzuki.

CADA also sold 274 used or second-hand vehicles in 2011, and 20 of those were sold in December alone.

CUC pipe repairs to cause 8-hour water outage in 4 areas

IN APPRECIATION CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging director Rose Mondala, left, hands a certificate of appreciation to Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager James Gebhard, second left, who had a surprise birthday celebration at the Aging Center last Thursday. Also in photo are, from right, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza and Gebhard's wife, Jum, who threw the surprise party for her husband.

Hundreds of families and business establishments will have to endure an eight-hour water interruption today as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. scrambles to repair old pipes.

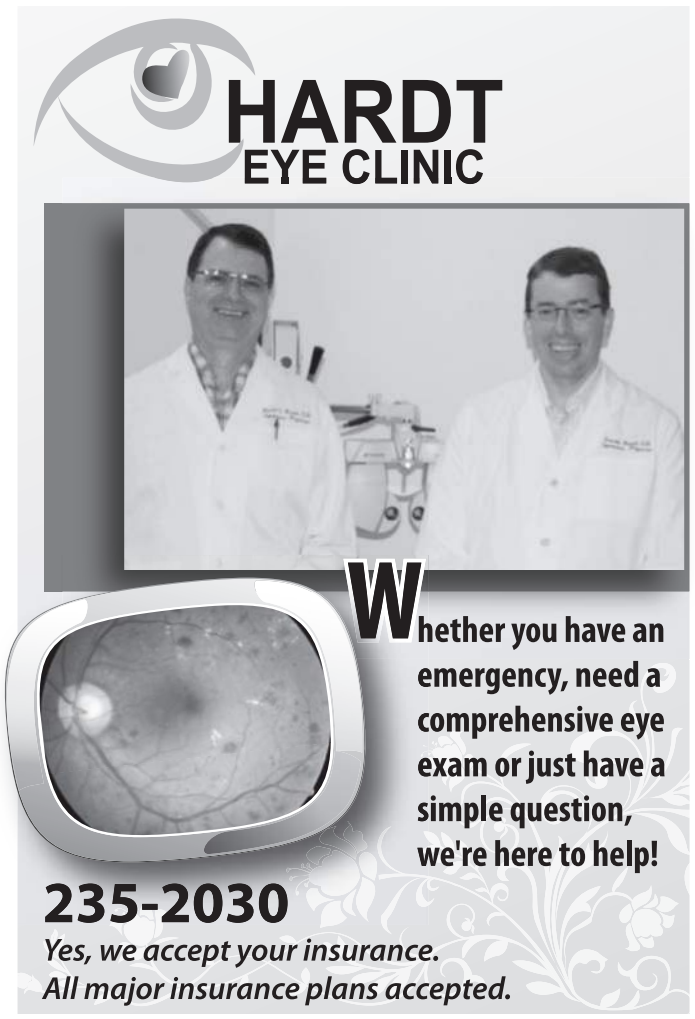
CUC said the water outage will last from 8:30am to 4:30pm and will affect residents of Dandan, Airport Road, Fina Sisu, and As Lito.

"The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC and AIC Marianas to continue replacing existing valves and make piping connections on the water lines in these areas," CUC stated in a media release.

Residents and commercial establishments that will be affected include those in Lower Dandan, Airport Road, Fina Sisu and As Lito, while residents of Upper Dandan will experience low water pressure.

CUC said that because of the scale of the work to be performed, it recommends that travelers take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

This fiscal year, CUC expects an increase in funding for both water and wastewater projects after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan asked for a 1.5 percent set-aside funding for the two from the House of Appropriations Subcommittee in Congress. The current law provides .25 percent of the Clean Water Fund for the islands and .33 percent of the Safe Drinking Water Fund. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***


HARDT
EYE CLINIC
Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!
235-2030
Yes, we accept your insurance.
All major insurance plans accepted.

Esther Muña quits as healthcare corp.'s CFO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Esther Muña, the former acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, has stepped down as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s chief financial officer effective this month.

Muña confirmed her resignation yesterday, saying that she opted not to renew her contract, which expires on Jan. 10, 2012, as she wants to focus on her medical coding career.

This year marks Muña's 20th at the hospital. She has a master's degree in health administration and is a certified professional coder. She started working for the Commonwealth Health Center as a medical transcriptionist. She also had a stint in administrative work before being moved to patient accounting in 1993 where she helped implement the first collections procedures for the hospital. She was promoted to business office manager in 2001.

Rift?

Muña's resignation received mixed reactions from many hospital staffers, who believe that her departure is due to a "rift" with healthcare corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Saipan Tribune learned that since the corporation's takeover, some official functions of the CFO have been taken away from Muña and given to other staffers. Many employees believe this may have been the reason behind Muña's decision to resign.

Muña declined to comment on this when contacted yesterday.

Babauta was in a meeting when contacted thrice yesterday and had yet to return calls as of press time. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Babauta named Cora Ada as acting hospital CFO.

Hard worder

Muña, according to hospital staffers, is one of the hardest workers at CHC. When the hospital lost its medical records manager in 2002, she stepped up to the plate to manage the unit in addition to maintaining her business office manager position.

Again, in 2009, when Pete Untalan resigned from CHC as hospital administrator, she assumed the job of administrator while maintaining her CFO position—all without additional pay.

As hospital administrator, she worked with the Public Health secretary to address issues cited by a Medicare survey, including, resolving all issues needed to open the dialysis center in October 2011. Muña is also credited for the successful award of four different grants to the hospital last year.

Since the takeover of the corporation in October, Muña was among the seven members of the corporation management team that directly worked with Babauta.

As the hospital's chief financial officer, she was paid $49,500 per annum.

Babauta: No one has been fired since the corporation's takeover

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta has clarified that the restructuring currently being implemented at the former Department of Public Health will not affect staff of the Commonwealth Health Center. Rather, it would zero in on streamlining divisions and units.

Since the organization's takeover in October, Babauta said that no one has been laid off or whose contracts were not renewed. He estimates that the corporation's personnel count at over 600.

"Since we took over, we have not ordered anyone to stop working…because we're not targeting individuals here. We are targeting the system, looking at every division and units [where we can save for the hospital]," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview at his office.

Babauta disclosed that among the divisions they are currently assessing is the hospital's dental clinic, where only public school students mostly benefit.

He said the dental service is 100 percent funded by local appropriation amounting to close to $700,000 a year. Because the service primarily used by Public School System students, the corporation only receives a minimal amount for supplies. The rest, he said, is subsidized by the local budget.

"What we're getting for the dental supplies is not even close to what we spend [for its operation]. So we're looking at the possible advantages if we will send these PSS kids to private dental clinics," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although the issue is being discussed, no decision has been finalized yet. "We're looking at our dental service very carefully, but we're not expecting to make a decision soon on this," he said.

Once a decision is reached, Babauta said the corporation will relay its decision to PSS.

Besides privatizing some services at the hospital, Babauta said he will also establish standard policies and procedures for corporation personnel.

"One of the things that was very apparent on Day 1 is the lack of policies and procedures at all levels. We need to adapt a unified personnel system for everyone to follow," he said.

The corporation will also develop an evaluation form for employees' performance assessment. "This way, each employee knows what their responsibilities are and what they should accomplish within the day," he said, adding the policies will play an important role in terms of determining the capability of its personnel in accordance with the kind of workforce the hospital really needs.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Saipan public library sees 31-percent drop in customers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has seen a 31-percent drop in the number of patrons that visited the library from October 2010 to September 2011.

A summary statistics report compiled by the library shows that a total of 66,300 patrons availed of library services in fiscal year 2011, a huge drop compared to the 96,481 posted in fiscal year 2010

The month of July—the middle of summer vacation for students—posted the highest number of patron count at 9,180. The type of material that was most borrowed was the juvenile category or materials for younger readers at 34,940.

Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales noted that the number reflects patrons' visits to the library in Susupe and the BookMobile Outreach Services, which goes to different schools and villages.

Gonzales said the fewer number of library visitors is a "psychological and behavioral" result of the reduced government work hours, which led to fewer days that the library was open to the public.

"When they found out that we had reduced hours, there was apathy from the community," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*. "People essentially had no motivation to come to the library."

Gonzales said the library's management and the Library Council worked hard and succeeded in convincing the government to reinstate the 80 hours for their staff.

"Like the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, we are also an educational institution and we actually serve the general population and not just a few," he said.

The lack of staff for the BookMobile program also hampered the library's ability to serve more residents. Gonzales disclosed that they only had one staff for BookMobile in 2010. "It took the government seven months to route the hiring papers for our part-time staff. Now, we already have two staff."

With operating hours back to normal, Gonzales said that library patrons are "much more responsive" to their services. "We're really mobilizing as much as we can to generate more traffic to the library and bring back the patron numbers to what we had before."

He said they plan to strengthen their partnership with the government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Marianas College, Saipan Rotary Club, Library Friends, and the Public School System to have more residents patronize the library.

"This demonstrates without a doubt the critical importance of public libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota especially in these challenging times. We've become more relevant and responsive at the same time," said Gonzales.

ACTIVE PARENTS DYS

Recent graduates of the *Active Parenting Now* parenting classes pose for a group photo with Parent Trainer Joann Aquino and DYS staff Nina Nekaifes, seated front, on Dec. 16. DYS offers free *Active Parenting Now* classes to parents of children ages 5 to 12. The classes teach effective ways to use non-violent discipline techniques, improve communication with children, teach responsibility and other important values, defuse power struggles, and encourage self-esteem.

Youth group hands out gift baskets to elderly

The newly elected CNMI-Palauan Community Association Youth Club officers participated in the annual PCA Christmas party on Dec. 17, 2011, by sharing candies, Christmas cards, singing Christmas songs, serving food, and playing volleyball at Loly 4-Chalan Kanoa.

The association followed this up on Dec. 27, 2011, with the distribution of gift baskets (food, drinks, and Christmas cards) to fellow Palauans and individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. They prepared and visited individuals who are homebound and some who are still mobile using assistive technology (wheelchair, walker, crutches, and cane).

Altogether, the association's officers visited a total of 19 individuals, who gave the youth words of encouragement and wisdom on how to reach their dreams and continue sharing their love for the needy and the sick. The youth group also sang Christmas songs and prayed for these individuals and shared their love with hugs and kisses.

This project was realized with the assistance of PCA youth coordinator Bernice B. Ravell and PCA assistant youth coordinator Linda Cabrera.

The youth officers had quite a learning experience and they enjoyed visiting the elderly. They want this gift distribution project to become an annual event during the holidays. They also want to challenge all the youth to remember and share their love and gifts with the needy.

The youth officers were sworn into office during the CNMI-PCA 17th Independence Day anniversary in early October and cleaned up the Wireless Cemetery on Capital Hill later that month as their first community project.

The association's youth officers are Vicente "VJ" Cabrera, president; Tyron Ilemelong, vice president; Kaylin Martin, secretary; Godiva Asanuma, treasurer; and Mario Brel, human resource officer. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, VJ Cabrera, Kaylin Martin, and Tyron Ilemlong present a gift basket to Alfonso Francisco.

New audiobooks, kits available at JKPL

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has 19 new audiobooks that are now available for borrowing starting yesterday.

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi said yesterday that the new audiobooks or books in CD format, arrived before Christmas.

These new audiobooks are *Geronimo Stilton* by Geronimo Stilton; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis; *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman; *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo; *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer; *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White; *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt; *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel; *Matilda* by Roald Dahl; *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson; *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen; *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Stuart Little* by E.B. White; *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne; *Junie B. Jones* by Barbara Park; *The Scarlett Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne; *The Arthur & Friends Collection* by Marc Brown; and *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.

"The audiobooks were actually something that parents and teachers requested in the past so we ordered them. We didn't order a lot but we did order enough for starters," Naputi said in an interview.

The audiobooks were bought using a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The library will also make available 14 new kits—books that come with CDs—which arrived with the audiobooks.

These new kits are *Miss Nelson has a Field Day, Miss Nelson is Missin, Hansel and Gretel,* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by James Marshall; *Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff; *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crocket Johnson; *In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming; *Is Your Mama a Llama* by Deborah Guarino; *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathman; *It's Justin Time, Amber Brown* by Paula Danziger; *Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin; *Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble* by Cynthia Rylant; *The Gingerbread Man* by Eric Kimmel; and *Corduroy* by Don Freeman.

Naputi said the audiobooks and the kits cater to children and young adult readers.

"It's a great start of the New Year for us, having these books on the floor so people can come and check them out. I know it's going to be popular because patrons have requested for them," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Naputi added that the JKPL started buying audiobooks for younger readers but will "work our way up to the adults."

A library card is needed to borrow these audiobooks and kits. For more information, call 235-READ (7323) or 7322.

Parade of Books in April

Registration is now open for elementary schools that want to join the Rotary Club of Saipan's 8th Annual Parade of Books, scheduled this April to coincide with the National Library Week.

The annual event, to be held on April 14, Saturday at 2pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, is part of Rotary's effort to encourage reading and literary creativity.

The 2012 Parade of Books is also sponsored by Delta Air Lines, Pacific Islands Club, DFS Galleria, and *Marianas Variety*.

2012 Parade of Books coordinator and Rotarian Reina Camacho said this year's competition will focus on books and stories that promote the values of Rotary, including service above self, trust, honesty, fairness, and friendship.

"We are super excited to see what the school teams will be able to produce from this," said Camacho.

The first place winner will bring home $1,000 cash, second place for $750, third place for $500, fourth place for $300, fifth place for $200, and consolation prizes of $100 each.

The 47-member team of Oleai Elementary School bagged first place last year with their remarkable interpretation of *Mulan*, a tale of a Chinese female warrior.

To register, contact Reina Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com or 664-8512. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Healthcare corp. wants to hire eight additional doctors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants to hire eight additional doctors, based on its latest budget submission to the Legislature.

Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that there are currently 27 doctors working at the Commonwealth Health Center. Of these number, three are locums, or short-term hires, Babauta said. In addition, the hospital also has four physician assistants.

For fiscal year 2012, the corporation proposes an operating budget of $38.5 million, of which $6 million will be used to pay for the salaries of doctors and physician assistants.

Saipan Tribune learned that the corporation wants to hire replacements for physicians who left their posts last year, including Drs. Shirish Balachandra, Edward Kolner, George Macris, and Timothy Taylor.

The corporation is also asking for funding to fill four other vacant slots for doctors: two for pediatrics, one for the emergency room, and one general physician.

Babauta said the $6 million proposed salaries for these doctors include the one-year housing allowance, which varies from $7,200 to $9,500 per physician.

$250K maximum salary

Babauta described the current salary the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. offers to doctors as "within range," noting a maximum of $250,000 per annum for a nephrologist. The amount is indicated in the corporation's 2012 budget proposal that was recently presented to the Legislature.

Babauta pointed out that without a nephrologist, CHC could lose millions of federal reimbursements from both Medicare, which require at least one.

"I know that no one is indispensable, but a nephrologist is…in this case because if we don't have one, our dialysis center will be ordered shut down. Medicare requires that there should be nephrologist at all times in the facility," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he is also worried that without the additional nephrologist, this may overwork and burn out the only one they have right now.

CHC has been operating without a radiologist for many years and Babauta said that salary and the volume of work have been big challenges to get one onboard.

"The reason why we don't have a radiologist is because this position requires $300,000 salary—as the lowest. The other challenge is the volume of work for the radiologist here is not enough…" he said.

CHC pays $70,000 per annum as the lowest salary at the physician level and this is for physician assistant positions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Bernard Rivera, Lumi Bermudes PSS Chamorro Language & Heritage Studies program manager; Edwin Sta. Theresa, and Kevin Jardinero have their picture taken at the premiere of *Finu' Chamorro* at the American Memorial Park on Dec. 23, 2011.

TV series *Finu' Chamorro* premieres at the AMP

» New TV series aims to preserve Chamorro language

With English fast becoming the language of the street, the CNMI is on the brink of losing one if its treasures: the Chamorro language. Fewer and fewer people speak Chamorro and even fewer numbers know how to read and write it.

A small group on Saipan is, however, taking action to ensure that the language does not go the way of the dodo. On Dec. 23, 201, a TV series titled *Finu' Chamorro* premiered at the state-of-the-art American Memorial Park Museum Theater, signaling the start of efforts to fight back against the language's extinction.

Lumi Bermudes, PSS Chamorro Language & Heritage Studies program manager, said that the crowd at the premiere "was happy that we started such a project, it being a project [that] advocates the importance of preserv[ing] the Chamorro language."

Bermudes did wish for more people to have attended the event but conceded that it was the middle of the holiday season where schedules were at their busiest. "I wished there were more; however, I guess the timing was a big factor."

With some minor tweaking here and there, the premier was a huge success, with the audience writing down notes on how to further improve the show.

"For the most part, however, I need to find more time [for] the editing of the script and the final cut," Bermudes said, adding that some parts "need to have more cultural pictures/artifacts as the background."

"There are always rooms for ideas. I think the most important is that I am present when shooting and that I edit the script before the shooting," she added.

There are many people to thank, Bermudes said, but most of all "to my family; my parents for instilling the language, my sons for driving me to preserve the language for future generations, and my partner for being my biggest critic and of course, Digital Motion for partnering up with me to realize the dream."

"*Finu'Chamorro* is going full ahead," Bermudes said. "*Si yu'us ma'asi'* to those who showed for the premiere and those silent sponsors who have yet to step up!"

Finu' Chamorro is currently airing every Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, Channel 7 ABC 7, from 7pm to 7:30pm. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Audience members watch *Finu' Chamorro* on the big screen at the American Memorial Park Museum Theater.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPW/ED-032

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 25, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ENERGY STAR TINTING FOR VARIOUS BUILDINGS IN SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO cnmi_tinting@recovery.gov.mp.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO cnmi_tinting@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 11, 2012.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2011-013

"DEVELOPER'S PROPOSAL ON NMHC'S GARAPAN ANNEX PROPERTIES"

Proposal packets will be available on December 27, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

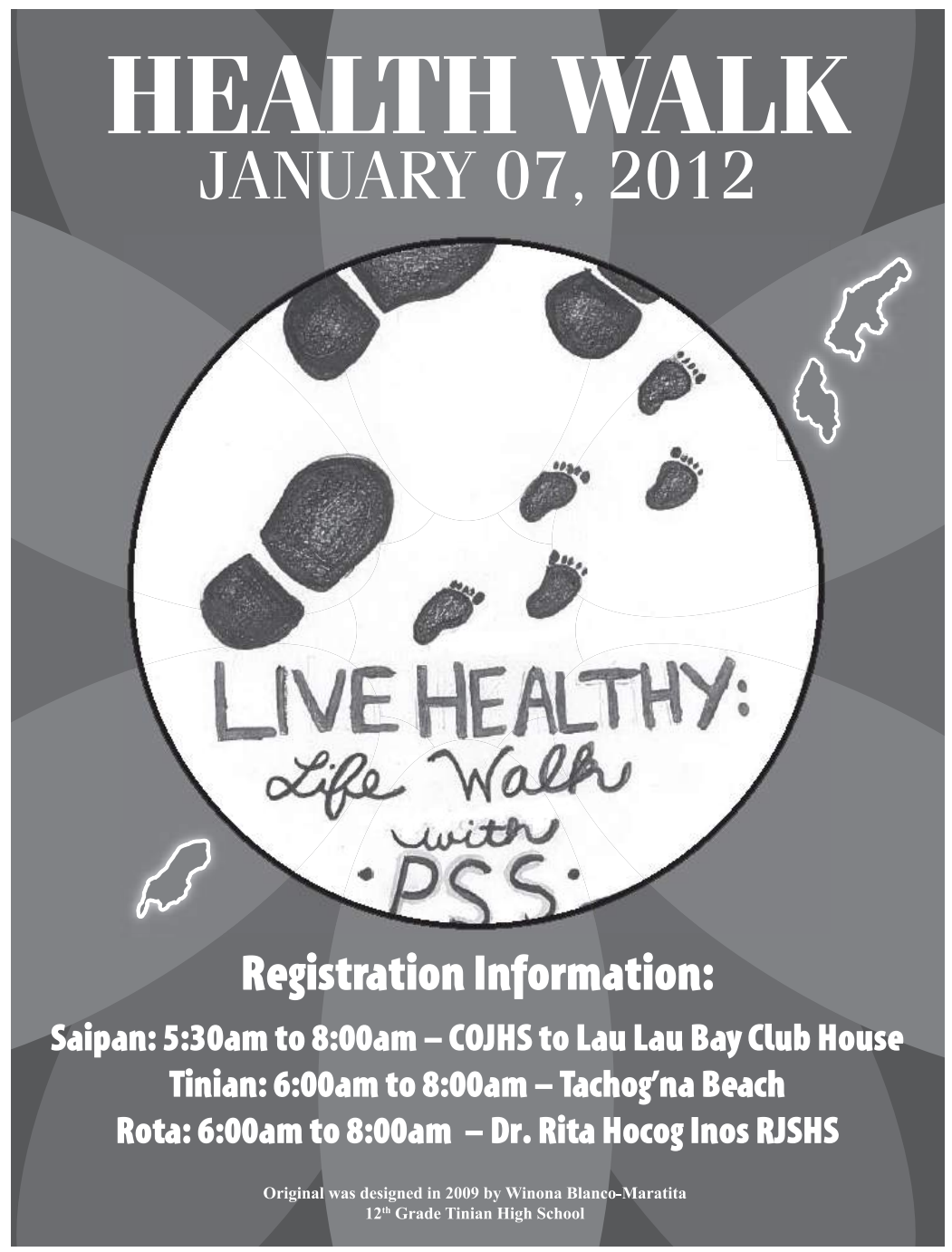
A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at **9:00 a.m.** on **Tuesday, January 17, 2012,** at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) shall be the sole judge as to which proposals best meet the selection criteria. The NMHC reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any submission requirements contained within this RFP, or to waive any irregularities in any submitted proposal.

ALL RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 – 10:00 AM for consideration. Any late responses will not be accepted. All proposals, including attachments, supplementary materials, addenda, etc. shall become the property of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and will not be returned.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply


HEALTH WALK
JANUARY 07, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – COJHS to Lau Lau Bay Club House
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

GVB prepares to promote Guam in Russia

» GVB calling for Russian speakers and writers to act as translators

TUMON, Guam—Since the announcement by the Department of Homeland Security approving parole authority for Russian Visitors to Guam, the Guam Visitors Bureau continues to work to develop a promotion strategy that ensures the successful entering of the market.

"Right now, we are working on a plan to promote Guam in Russia," GVB deputy general manager Nathan Denight said. "We have some unique challenges in this new market because Guam is already being promoted, but used as an acronym to represent the Russian political states of **G**eorgia, **U**kraine, **A**zerbijan, and **M**oldova."

GVB's plan focuses on the eastern region of the country that includes the cities of Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Yakutsk, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. A focus will also be given to the centrally located city of Novosibirsk that will provide access to other major city-centers such as Moscow and Kazan.

As part of its strategic goals, GVB intends to work with the CNMI's Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the region in Russia. In a letter to CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, general manager Joann Camacho affirmed GVB's commitment to work with MVA on a plan that benefits both jurisdictions.

"Russian visitors usually make longer stays in places they visit. Because of that, there are more opportunities afforded to the people of the Marianas region," GVB's Camacho said. "By working with MVA and the Russian trade, this 'One Marianas' approach will maximize benefits for all our people."

GVB marketing manager Pilar Laguaña stated that part of the plan is to attend an international travel fair, much like the JATA fair in Japan, to be held in Moscow later this year. At the same time, put on road shows in its focus cities in the eastern and central part of the country.

Laguaña added, "It is our intention to educate the travel trade on our parole authority visa waiver approval, provide information on the accessibility to the region, inform the trade of travel and tourism offerings, and to establish media relations for future marketing campaigns."

As part of its preparations, GVB is also undertaking the responsibility to assist the tourism industry in Guam to prepare for Russian Visitors.

"We are currently establishing a list of people on island, possessing knowledge of speaking, reading, and writing Russian, who are interested in providing translation services," said GVB spokesperson Antonio Muña. "While the marketing plan is still in draft form, it is important that we begin to prepare the industry, both infrastructure and guest services, to support the needs of Russian visitors to Guam."

If interested, contact GVB marketing officer Gina Kono at 646-5278. ***(GVB)***

Guam fiesta tour gives visitors intimate cultural experience

The Guam Island Fiesta Tour, or GIFT, introduces visitors into the homes of local families for village fiesta celebrations. They are greeted with shell leis, invited to participate in cultural activities like coconut husking, *talaya* (cast net) throwing, and tuba (fermented coconut juice) drinking, and are treated to tables laden with authentic Chamorro cuisine. The GIFT reaches local stakeholders at a grass roots level.

The GIFT program occurs monthly in correspondence with a celebration to honor a Catholic patron saint. As local families gather for these centuries old traditions, visitors are invited to join the festivities as part of the family.

"The GIFT is a unique and intimate way to experience Chamorro culture," said GVB general manager Joann Camacho. "It not only shows local families that they have a stake in the visitor industry, but it displays our Chamorro culture in a way that people have not been able to experience it. We are not just telling our visitors about Guam—we're showing them and inviting them to participate."

GVB

Children ride a water buffalo as part of the cultural immersion tours being provided by Guam to visitors and residents alike.

Religious origin

In the pre-contact period—before Magellan discovered Guam—there were no fiestas. Instead, clans gathered to celebrate special events such as the harvesting of a good crop, clan contests, village events to craft a canoe, hut building, *gupot åtof* (roof party) or just congregating to chant and dance, tell stories and legends, give genealogy lessons, or socialize and have fun.

The Spanish Catholic missionaries introduced the system in which individual saints were honored and recognized on their patron feast date. This system was easily adapted into the Chamorro social celebrations at each of the villages. It became an occasion for families and friends from around the island to congregate for prayer and celebration.

Modern-day celebrations

Today, the villages celebrate particular saints who symbolize special powers. For example, San Roke, the patron saint of Barrigada, symbolizes a healer; San Isidro, the patron saint of Fena—and now, Malojloj—symbolizes the farmer; and Saint Jude, the patron saint of Sinajana, symbolizes the ability to perform the impossible.

Many Chamorros are known for devotion to patron saints. A *nobena* (special rosary) is held for nine days, culminating with the traditional village procession and festal masses. Devotees from around the island attend the village procession and festal masses in order to fulfill their *promesa*, or special devotion to a saint.

Promesa is a pledge of honor made when a favor asked of the saint is bestowed. Some families hold individual *nobenas* (religious prayers) in their homes, but for the most part, the *nobena* is held in the church and recited by a *techa* (prayer leader).

The traditional *na'taotao tumano'* is a dinner served after the festal mass and procession on Saturday to which all the people who participated are invited. The people of the host village provide the *na'taotao tumano'*. Each family in the village brings its share of food, drinks, or money that goes toward the cost of the dinner.

Some hold their fiesta celebration at home on a Sunday to accommodate relatives and friends who come to attend the Sunday festal mass. Today, these celebrations are more open.

As in other celebrations, the family prepares for the fiesta in advance—livestock and crops are reserved, *pånglao* (crab) and *mahongang* (lobster) are caught and fattened, meats are stripped and dried for *tasåhos* (dried beef strips), pigs are slaughtered, and the ingredients for *fritåda* (a pork blood and intestine stew) are cleaned and preserved.

"We set the standard high in order to ensure our visitors get the overwhelming experience they should," said Cultural Heritage Officer Sonja Lujan-Sellers, "Because of that, we have received outstanding feedback from everyone involved. Our visitors love it, our families enjoy teaching about our Chamorro culture, and our industry stakeholders have begun packaging GIFT as an optional tour with airlines and hotel stays." ***(GVB)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 4, 1999

Power project put on chiller

The Office of the Public Auditor has deferred action on pending protests lodged against the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation over the stalled power plant on Saipan following a decision to hire an independent engineering firm to re-evaluate various project proposals. But companies locked in a legal dispute with CUC have slammed what they claimed as unclear status of an agreement earlier forged with Marubeni Corp. of Japan and its U.S. partner, Sithe Energies, Inc. which has been the subject of the protests since last June. Lawyers for both Enron and a consortium of Alsons, Tomen, Singapore Power and Tan Holdings Corp. raised doubts that the deal has been called off in light of the new round of review to be conducted on the project in the next few weeks.

CDA to prioritize housing loans

The Commonwealth Development Authority vowed to prioritize housing loans this year to ensure that homeless people still get the chance to own a house despite the Northern Marianas' economic difficulties, according to CDA Board Chairman Juan S. Tenorio. CDA's allied agency, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. or NMHC, will carry out the goal through its various housing loan programs. "Right now, I'm pushing for more housing loans. I think it would be to the community's advantage to have an equity on housing loans," Tenorio said. A housing loan borrower automatically builds up an equity. After 10 years, he becomes eligible to borrow at least 10 percent of the total value of his assets said Tenorio.

Jan. 4, 2001

Teno signs 2 local laws

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed two local laws affecting the island municipality of Saipan, including one that will allow its mayor to name his designee in acting capacity while he is away. Saipan Local Law 12-6 follows concerns raised by the Attorney General's Office against Mayor Jose C. Sablan's practice of picking one high-ranking municipal official to assume the post everytime he travels off-island. Before its signing, there is no law that authorizes the mayor to designate an acting mayor to carry out the duties whenever he is physically absent from Saipan.

Tanapag PCB remediation project resumes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Tanapag PCB Remediation Project has resumed work following a break for the holiday season. The most recent phase of the project being done in Tanapag Village began in August. Since then, more than 12,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyl, commonly referred to as PCBs, has been removed from Cemetery No. 2 and other Tanapag village sites and stockpiled in nearby containment cells. Environmental Chemical Corporation of Aiea, Hawaii, a leading company in the PCB-remediation field, is doing the work under contract with the Corps.

Jan. 4, 2002

MVA wants own flag carrier for NMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seriously looking at the possibility of creating the Commonwealth's own flag carrier, as it seeks the assistance of the Honolulu-based Aloha Airlines to jumpstart the plan. The MVA is in discussion with Aloha Airlines executives, with local tourism officials searching for the prevailing rate system and other information related to the plan. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said the proposed flag carrier will initially service the Northern Marianas and later expand its operations to Guam, Palau, and other Pacific islands.

New law frees up CIP money for PSS

House Bill 12-426 would probably go down in CNMI legislative history as one of the fastest bill that got signed into law, after making it through the legislative process in exactly a month. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed House Bill 12-426 on December 31-or 31 days after the House of Representatives first passed the measure, which, in effect, would make the CNMI compliant with the grant terms of the Office of Insular Affairs and eligible once more for new grants. The measure-now officially known as Public Law 12-81-essentially transfers the responsibility for a classrooms project from the Rota High School to the Northern Marianas College.

Island Snapshots

MVA

BEACH CLEANUP

Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association cleaned up at Obyan Beach, Saipan on Dec. 22, 2011, in anticipation of the holiday flood of visitors.

PASEO CLEANUP

Members of Japan Saipan Travel Association gave the gift of time to clean up Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, Saipan on Dec. 24, 2011, in anticipation of the holiday flood of visitors. Over 70 volunteers joined the community effort.

MVA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 50th birthday to Jack Ulloa Palacios! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your loving family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jasmine Matsumoto! May you have blast on your birthday for the year 2012. Good health and God bless! Greetings come from your family.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A PRAYER FOR EVERYONE

Members of the Good News Church of Saipan and Chung Shin Methodist Church offer prayers for CNMI government officials and employees in front of the Office of the Governor building on Capital Hill on Thursday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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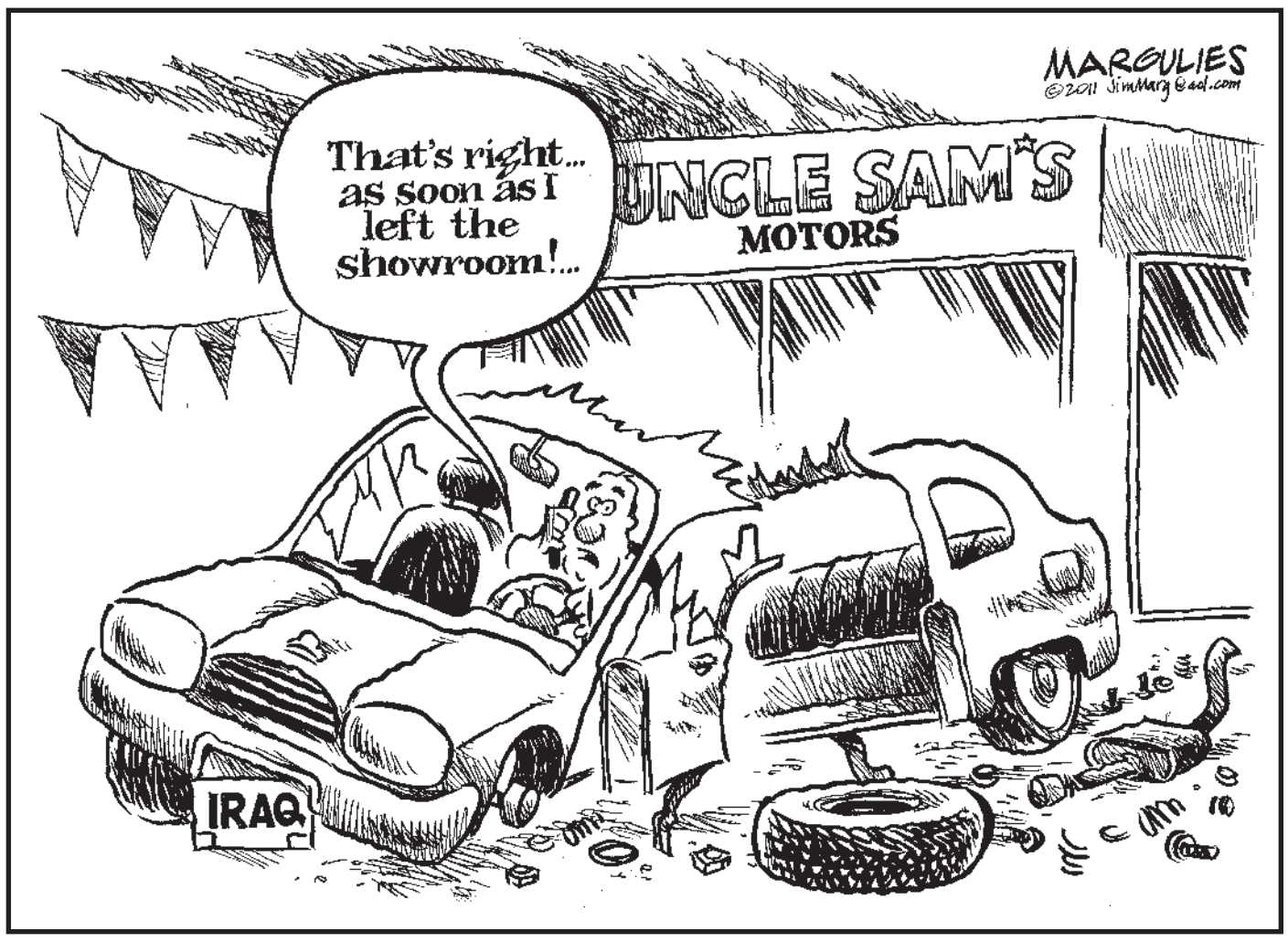
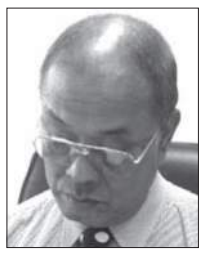


2012: It's up to good governance

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former Public Lands secretary.*



Even though the New Year has begun, there's the nagging lump in our throat making it impossible to leave bad memories of 2011 behind. Though our hearts are awash with hopeful sentiments, we know one thing for sure: the pain of 2011 will last forever!

Be that as it may, there's still the dreadful task of putting the year 2012 into perspective with guarded hope and optimism. Felicitations for a "prosperous new year" were hollowed out by apocalyptic economic hardship in households throughout villages on all three isles.

The heavy assaults against the last economic pillar, tourism, were triggered by major reduction in flight services from Japan. This was further derailed by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that forcibly dimmed the sunrays in the Land of the Rising Sun, including the CNMI.

Major foreign capital or investments fled the islands due to uncertainty with the federalization of immigration. Adding fuel to fire was the implementation of federal minimum wage that forced small businesses into slow bankruptcy and closure. And there's the lack of empathy from people at the helm to improve the lots of families on the islands, if only to avoid loss of the first family home, among others. Simplified scenario: There's far less for far more doomed in devastation.

Dalliance with US citizenship

Though the CNMI's a permanent part of the greater American political family, there's the juvenile attitude of self-denial of our citizenship as though it's a cog or tool of convenience to thrash about at will. Need we boast off adolescence where we find that the enemy is us?

It seems there's the obvious lack of clarity of understanding of the responsibility that comes with citizenship. Or is it a juvenile case of simple adherence to our culture of *mañana,* hoping we won't have to responsibly embrace the moral obligations of citizens, including upholding the First Principles that founded the U.S. Constitution?

Listen to the discordant and juvenile voice of the "we few" former and current politicians. It's easy to detect how they've demonized and forged a dysfunctional relationship with the federal government. It clearly illuminates that theirs is money and the retention of power that is fast slipping from their once fresh grip. It's power so far removed from really and honestly helping the lot of the multitude.

This effete bunch is quick in intoning "gimme, gimme, gimme more money" paid for by U.S. mainland taxpayers, but instantly refuse to rein in repealing land alienation or Article 12 so we rid the CNMI of its race-based land policy. Do politicians understand that the right to own property is "unalienable?" It simply means it can't be infringed nor violated!

I wouldn't be advocating for the repeal of Article 12 if it weren't for the fact that it is God-given right included in "We The People" of the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Furthermore, it isn't a civil but a "natural" right, not a government or societal grant. Is there a god of sort among you who can change what He's given mankind through our humanity? Are you fearful of doing things

See 2012 on Next Page

The Mayan Mantra 2012

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School in Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Mayan *b'ak'tun* (5,121 year cycle) calendar ends in 2012, which our purveyors in the commerce of gloom (Roland Emmerich's movie *2012* was released on a Friday the 13th) took advantage of to promote their eschatological apocalypse (not dissimilar to the U.S. foreign policy of Armageddon and its designation of nations in the Axis of Evil), and the theophony of doom (feeding into our apocalyptic dreams and the American penchant for end-of-the world scenarios)!

The movie shot by the same folks of *Independence Day* were out to entertain, but marketing principle dictates that one takes advantage of people's propensities, and at the personal level, the urge to die is just as strong as the will to survive.

It is thus no surprise that Michelle Bachmann, in the continuing journey of the GOP into the native hearts of Americans and the passage of American politics into irrelevance, added Russia and China on her list of the Axis of Evil. The wonder is not that she echoed a Republican fear; it is that she plays to an audience ready to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* each time she raises a flag to this type of pronouncement.

Beyond personal psychology, the human race marches to two beats: entropy and empathy. "Entropy" came into my vocabulary when Jeremy Rifkin in 1980 wrote his "comprehensive world view." Pulling out the Entropy Law—the Second Principle of Thermodynamics—it states that "all energy flows inexorably from the orderly to the disorderly and from the usable to the unusable. Whenever a semblance of order is created anywhere on Earth or in the universe, it is done at the expense of causing greater disorder in the surrounding environment."

Three reasons Rifkin caught our attention. I was ('72-'86) a mendicant monastic "blue shirt" (sought charity giving to support our work, though stayed in being by communal self-support) who kept our ear to the ground on anyone and anybody who was drumming up common sense work to understand "reality" as it is. Rifkin came highly recommended.

A second reason was the fact that Rifkin was my contemporary, born the same year ahead by only a few months. His major epiphany came in '67 when he witnessed his fraternity brothers beating up protesters against the Vietnam War. He then became a formidable student activist against the war. My major epiphany happened with the Apollo 8 "earthrise" photos in '68 when my wife and I became members of a visible/invisible global servant force!

The third reason was silly and very personal. Rifkin's mother's family name is Ravel; mine is Ravelo.

But in 1980, while Rifkin was airing a cautionary note to American progress, science and technology from its industrial revolution with the flipside reality of "crisis, chaos, pollution, and decay," condemning corporate tyranny, I was trekking in Central and South America working with village level distributive economic development efforts that depended on local efforts and utilized existing and available resources.

Rifkin went on to become an authoritative voice in forecasting economic trends, while I went on with my participatory "Yes, you can" efforts into the Saipan sunset of oblivion.

Now Rifkin pulls out his other e-word: emphathy. In 2010, he wrote *The Emphatic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis,* taking a wide swath of psychology, biology, and philosophy, and concluding that humans do have a choice between the natural processes of life, entropy, and empathy. On Saipan, I promoted the Japanese notion for "glocal" awareness (global) and action (local), and Rifkin and I found ourselves at the same crossroad again. *The Third Industrial Revolution: How Lateral Power Is Transforming Energy, the Economy and the World* is Rifkin seeing the power of distributive capitalism versus corporate tyranny; we are back on the same page.

In this early part of 2012, when the drumbeats are loudest again in the direction of entropy, misleading us to taking the long cyclical traditions of the Mayan calendar as pointing to a cataclysmic ending of an era, I am reminded of a Mayan colleague in 1980 in Guatemala.

A professional Guillermo worked as a "blue shirt" in an agrarian reform site. Rios Montt, the ruling Christian evangelical military warrior, was the country's executive. We worked that April with villagers on drip irrigation, battling to increase production and broaden participatory democracy. Earlier January, Mayan peasants occupied Spain's embassy in protest against the Guatemalan military. Against the expressed wishes of the Spanish ambassador, the Guatemalan government stormed the embassy, killing 36 of the protesters. Spain, as a result, withdrew diplomatic relations for four years. The 1980 incident would be a turning point in the Guatemalan civil war of 1960-96, with the emergence of the *Frente patriotico 31 de enero* (Patriotic Front of 31 January).

Guillermo quietly protested with deeds, but shortly after we left training school, he went home for a week's respite. He never made it home. He was pointed out as a dissident, arrested, and never seen again.

My only Mayan friend Guillermo did not labor for the end of the world, but for its transformation. Entropic process is real but we do have the choice toward empathetic civilization. It is not an easy dance to learn, almost like Obama steps: one forward, two backward. But transformation was Guillermo's mantra. It is ours as well.

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When the bully is the teacher or an administrator

By CRAIG GARRISON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Craig H. Garrison is a former principal of Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School.

The entire nation is aware of bullying and its effects on students. There are a host of national campaigns and programs to address this topic head on. Here in the CNMI we are also staying active on the anti-bullying front with proposed legislation and the creation of policy for the protection of cyber-bullying among other forms now being introduced at both the state and school district levels. Most notably being introduced by students themselves, which is rather ironic in as much as adults are supposed to be protecting them.

But what happens when the bully is the teacher or administrator? Where is the policy language to speak to that? Where do students go when the very people we tell them to go to when they are being bullied are actually the ones who are doing the bullying? This conduct happens in schools districts across America and in many cases the student chooses to simply change schools when it gets out of hand. Unfortunately, here in the CNMI our students do not have the luxury of choosing schools. Recent research shows that there is likely at least one bully teacher or administrator in every school. For staffing patterns that are at or above 100 employees that number increases. What that equates to at the high school level in the CNMI is that the single bully teacher has an estimated 120 students under their charge that may be subject to their bullying on a daily basis and this can be seriously devastating for the student and even affecting their family.

Dr. Deborah Serani, a psychologist and practicing psychoanalyst, states in her research, "Teachers who are bullies have the same characteristics of other bullies. They are sadistic and petty, gaining self-esteem through the humiliation of others. In the school environment, a teacher-bully will shame a child in front of classmates, often using their position of authority in abusive ways. The teacher-bully may make an example of a child, sending him out of the room or to the corner. Maybe an extra assignment or denying your child recess becomes the vehicle for bullying." This type of conduct serves the teacher well as they mask their bullying under the guise that they are disciplining the student or otherwise using alternative instructional methods—a host of fabricated excuses to cover up what is really happening when the bullying teacher or administrator is involved.

As a former principal I know full well the effects of teachers bullying their students. I have had to address it on more than one occasion as I am witness to the ill effects on the students. Their lack of desire to come to school out of fear of the teacher, they're withdrawn and silent when they used to be vibrant and full of life. They cower when the teacher walks by or approaches, their head down and an obvious subservient demeanor is manifested simply by being in the presence of the administrator or teacher doing the bullying. How are we to expect children to learn in that environment? How can they even be motivated to learn? And what's worse is that many may choose to bully others as a result of being bullied by their teacher. Indeed a sad reality, as the vast majority of teachers are dedicated and committed to being there for the student and helping them overcome many of the challenges they face in the classroom. But for the few who are not, the few who are the "bullies," the negative impact of their behavior is often far greater and lasting in the student's mind.

In my early years as a teacher, I remember several teachers who would fit the description of bullying students. Even physically pushing them around and saying things like "what are you going to do about it; I'm the teacher, who is going to believe you?" I complained several times to the administration about these individuals and for the most part the principal swiftly addressed it. Where I felt it needed more, I personally went to the teacher and added my two cents for lack of a better phrase. I recall one teacher who had the habit of head butting his students under the guise that he was hard of hearing and couldn't see that well, so when they got close he would bend down and say "what"…and crack his big 'ol forehead square into the student and then back off and say "oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean that, I didn't see you, etc." He finally did it to the wrong student who was about his own size and the student cold-cocked him square in the nose, of course followed with, "oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see you there."

> As a former principal I know full well the effects of teachers bullying their students. I have had to address it on more than one occasion as I am witness to the ill effects on the students. Their lack of desire to come to school out of fear of the teacher, they're withdrawn and silent when they used to be vibrant and full of life.

More recently, even though I am no longer working for PSS, I continue to get stories from students who are likely being bullied by their teachers and or administrators. With one administrator reportedly having a habit of pushing his fat belly into students as he approaches them in a scolding manner, which really is nothing more than outright intimidation and bullying. Another story is about the administrator who is constantly using race as a means to belittle the student whenever they are present. In each case I contact the principal directly to share the concern and to voice my desire for them to take clear and decisive action to protect both the student and the school system. In most cases there should be documented intervention such as counseling and education along with follow up to ensure that retaliation against the student is not occurring. Continued complaints should warrant Board of Education intervention.

Dr. Alan McEvoy, Ph.D. from Wittenberg University writes in his paper *Teachers Who Bully Students: Patterns and Policy Implications* that "teachers who bully, feel their abusive conduct is justified and will claim provocation by their targets. They often will disguise their behavior as 'motivation' or as an appropriate part of the instruction. They also disguise abuse as an appropriate disciplinary response to unacceptable behavior by the target. The target, however, is subjected to deliberate humiliation that can never serve a legitimate educational purpose."

Bullying by teachers raises the specter of school liability. For example, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education* 526 U.S. 629 (1999) provided language and a set of principles that should give educational institutions pause. The *Davis* Court defined those factors it found compelling to expand school liability from staff-to-student sexual harassment (where the school is liable for the conduct of its employee) to student-to-student sexual harassment (where arguably the conduct occurred without the school's complicity.) The court ruled that schools receiving federal funds, at all levels of education, may be held financially responsible where officials are "deliberately indifferent" to harassing behaviors that are "severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive." If the Supreme Court found those principles an adequate basis to expand school liability in one arena, why wouldn't they apply equally to a decision to expand school liability in another arena (i.e., to liability for teacher/student bullying)? The *Davis* Court established four criteria in considering liability: 1) school officials had actual knowledge of severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive conduct; 2) school officials were deliberately indifferent to such conduct; 3) the school had control over the harasser and the context where the harassment occurred (such as the classroom); and 4) the school's response, or lack of response, was unreasonable given such knowledge. The court ruling also suggests that schools should have in place policies and procedures to address abusive conduct. Failure to have in place a means to redress a legitimate grievance related to behavior that creates a hostile environment for learning enhances a school's liability. In effect, if a discriminatory hostile environment exists in the classroom, and school officials have been given appropriate notice but fail to act, then the school risks both compensatory and punitive damages.' A full copy of Dr. Alan McEvoy, Ph.D research can be found at:

http://www.stopbullyingnow.com/teachers%20who%20bully%20students%20McEvoy.pdf

It's time that schools take a hard look at what is happening on campuses and in the classrooms and collect the information needed to take action to protect students from bullying by not only their peers but their teachers and administrators. I would ask that the BOE with the help of a professional external organization create a student survey regarding this issue so that they may get to the bottom of what's really happening in our schools and create an action plan to address the findings. I am sure the findings will be shocking. Our children are our only hope to the kind of future the world will see. Let's not blind them with abuse from those who are supposed to show them the light.

2012

From Page 10

right for once in your brief political career?

Must understand sovereignty

Is the CNMI a sovereign island country? Aren't we under the sovereign rule of the U.S. per Section One of the Covenant Agreement? Why the adolescent self-denial in perpetuity? For as long as the NMI is run by a mindset mired in indistinct competency, it will continue sending the economic landscape into the abyss of misery and dystopia. No one else but us must domesticate this adolescent illusion.

How timely and fitting the words of former NMI Supreme Court Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz: The NMI "must have a fair and reliable legal system and code of law. Individuals and businesses operating or who wish to establish shop in the NMI should be assured and must have the confidence that they will be treated fairly and not be discriminated against. This means that the NMI government has to assure everyone in the NMI—individuals and businesses alike—will all get a fair shake."

The CNMI must get its act together with some sense of purpose and definition. To engage adolescent acquiescence for purposes of political expediency only retards the political maturation process. There are substantive issues that need to be taken up with Washington but we can't do it until we own up to our citizenship responsibilities. It's mind-boggling the attitude of the elected elite who refuse to step forward and protect the "unalienable" rights of citizens to property. Are they fearful of doing what's right?

Hope for reconciliation

We accepted a change in the land tenure system imposed by the Spanish when it granted the lowest class of Chamorros (Manachañg) their right to landownership. Why then would you find difficulty granting your fellow citizens their rights, too? That you hide under the cloak of "indigenous" doesn't make you superior, does it?

A lot is wrong in paradise and the enemy is the so-called elected elite and corrupt "indigenous" folks at the helm that consistently victimize their people with polished demagoguery. Perhaps they've consistently suffered from intellectual atrophy and integrity as their exhausted demagoguery diminishes.

Policy dictates the success or failure of any economic plan. The recent fleeing of foreign capital from the CNMI by the billions of dollars is a tale that investors can't stand an uneven playing field. Our bigoted attitude and half-cocked decisions from taxes to piles of fees aimed against their making decent profits have basically chased them off the island.

The sour mood of governance triggered by economic collapse is a tale that it craves for answers, clarity, and real leadership. This call will not be answered by ambiguity and corruption in a system where merit has been parked permanently.

It boggles the mind how politicians would navigate economic collapse that has started its final descent. Not ready to repeat painful experiences of recent past with smiling demagogues. Enough is enough! It's up to good governance and it starts with a steely determination to institute real change this midterm election.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

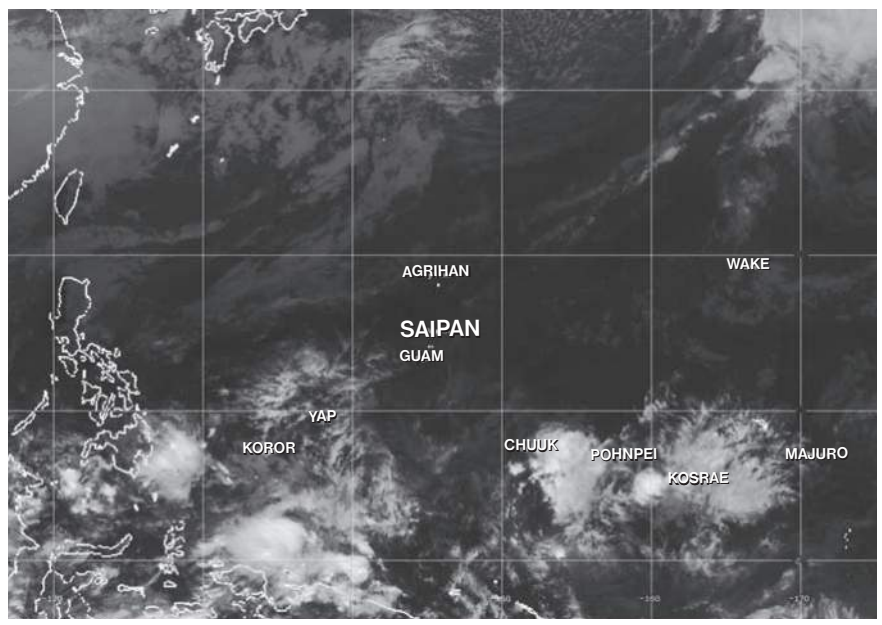
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼15
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲57	▼54
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼71
London	Showers	▲54	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲81	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼48
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲32	▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼36
Paris	Showers	▲52	▼42
Pusan	Windy	▲42	▼26
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼43
Salem	Cloudy	▲54	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲27	▼16
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Washington, DC	Windy	▲33	▼24

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N158E just south of Minami Tori Shima to 20N150E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward across 3N130E to end at EQ143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror and south of Yap are between the equator and 8N to the west of 145E. A surface trough near Chuuk is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 3N156E to 8N154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae between 8N and 3N from 159E to 169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:49 PM	2:07 AM
Thursday	2:34 PM	2:57 AM
Friday	3:22 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	4:13 PM	4:40 AM
Sunday	5:07 PM	5:31 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US auto industry to post another good sales year

DETROIT (AP)—After hitting a 30-year low in 2009, U.S. auto sales are poised for a second straight year of growth—the result of easier credit, low interest rates and pent-up demand for cars and trucks created by the Great Recession.

The sales forecast bodes well for the industry's continued recovery and for the broader American economy.

In 2009, Detroit automakers were in peril. Car sales plunged as unemployment soared, and loans became harder to get. Chrysler and General Motors filed for bankruptcy protection. Ford avoided bankruptcy only by borrowing billions.

Now credit is more available, interest rates are low and Americans need to replace old cars and trucks they kept during and after the downturn. Millions of drivers in their teens and 20s are expected to buy vehicles, too. That could mean more jobs, more factory shifts and overall growth.

Vince Powell, a retiree from Winfield, Pa., recently traded in his wife's 7-year-old Chrysler 300 luxury sedan for a 2011 model. The old car had 145,000 miles on it, but it was the deal he got that most attracted him: a low interest rate (2.7 percent per year), a six-year loan term and a big discount off the $31,900 sticker price.

"I'm getting a $300 per month payment," he said just before closing the sale at Beaver Motors in Beaver Springs, Pa., near Harrisburg. "I've never had a new car for 300 bucks a month."

In their effort to survive, all three automakers downsized and positioned themselves to turn profits—even if sales remained depressed. Now that sales are rising, the outlook has brightened considerably.

Automakers report U.S. sales for 2011 on Wednesday. When final figures are calculated, sales of new cars and trucks are expected to reach 12.7 million, up from 11.5 million in 2010 and 10.4 million in 2009, the worst year since 1982.

In 2012, they could climb as high as 13.8 million, close to what experts consider a healthy market—around 14 million.

December sales could reach an annual rate of 13.4 million, which would make it the second-strongest month of the year. Only November was better. Auto website Edmunds.com forecasts a 37 percent rise in sales at Chrysler Group LLC in December, thanks to new and revamped products such as the Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV and the Chrysler 200 midsize sedan

Carmakers have announced plans to crank up factories and add thousands of jobs. Last January, Ford said it would hire 7,000 workers over the next two years. During the summer, GM said it would add 2,500 at the Detroit factory that makes the Chevrolet Volt electric car. Volkswagen hired 2,000 for a new plant in Tennessee, and Honda added 1,000 in Indiana. The industry will add 167,000 jobs by 2015, a 28 percent increase over current levels, predicts The Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich.

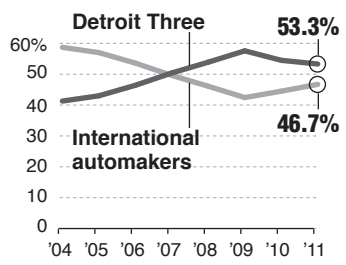
During the summer, the auto industry was adding jobs at a faster pace than airplane manufacturers, shipbuilders, health care providers and the federal government. It kept adding jobs even when the national unemployment rate rose above 9 percent, Standard & Poor's downgraded U.S. debt for the first time and the stock market tumbled.

Good year for U.S. automakers

The U.S. auto industry had a strong year with solid sales and job growth. A look at the trends:

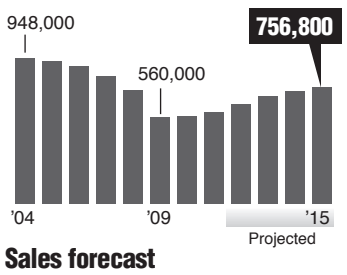
Bigger market share

Ford, GM and Chrysler now have more than half of the U.S. market



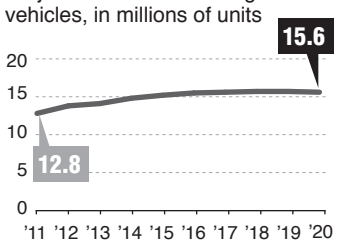
More jobs

Auto industry jobs are projected to continue grow from 2009 low



Sales forecast

Projected sales for U.S. light vehicles, in millions of units



Source: Center for Automotive Research
Graphic: Judy Treible
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AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011 photo, a Lime Squeeze Metallic 2012 Ford Fiesta SE, left, and an Ingot Silver Metallic 2012 Ford Focus Titanium 5-Door Hatchback are shown at the Maroone Ford of Miami dealership in Miami.

Spain: 2011 deficit could be higher than 8 pct.

MADRID (AP)—Spain's government will approve further deficit-reduction measures this week, on top of the bombshell euro15 billion package of tax hikes and spending cuts they announced only days ago, ministers said Monday.

They also said the 2011 budget deficit could be even higher than the 8 percent of GDP announced last week. That figure was already a major increase on the 6 percent forecast by the previous government.

Treasury Minister Cristobal Montoro said the new measures would be passed at a Cabinet meeting Thursday. The previous austerity package was announced last Friday.

Montoro gave no details but told reporters the measures would show Spain's eurozone partners and other countries that Madrid's new conservative government is serious about acting quickly to shore up public finances.

Separately, Finance Minister Luis de Guindos said that the government, which took power just before Christmas, found out only early last week how bad the 2011 deficit numbers were and had no choice but to act quickly by increasing income and property taxes, despite an election campaign pledge not to do so.

The conservative Popular Party swept to victory in Nov. 20 general elections, winning a comfortable majority in Parliament as voters enduring 21.5 unemployment and a stagnant economy dumped the incumbent Socialists.

De Guindos said the 8 percent figure would have come out in a matter of weeks anyway and would have almost certainly led to a punishing rise in Spain's borrowing costs.

So the government acted quickly by announcing Friday the package of tax rises and spending cuts at the same time as it unveiled the new deficit estimate, so as to stay ahead of events, he said.

"It was an act of responsibility and political initiative to keep the Spanish economy from reaching a situation that would have been practically unsustainable," de Guindos told Cadena Ser radio.

He said both the central government and Spain's regional governments shared blame for the overspending.

Venezuela to pay Exxon Mobil only $255 million

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela said Monday it has successfully defended itself in an international arbitration case brought by Exxon Mobil Corp. and will need to pay only $255 million of the more than $900 million awarded to the company.

State oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA, said in a statement that debts and court action reduce what it owes under decision by the International Chamber of Commerce, which awarded Exxon Mobil more than $907 million in compensation.

It noted that Exxon Mobil had previously used international courts to freeze about $300 million in Venezuela's U.S. accounts and that the company also has a debt of $191 million relating to financing of an oil project in the country, as well as $160 million that the arbitration tribunal said was due to PDVSA.

PDVSA called it a "successful defense" and said Exxon Mobil had initially demanded about $12 billion in compensation while pursuing two international arbitration claims.

Exxon Mobil sought arbitration after President Hugo Chavez's government nationalized an oil project in the country in 2007.

The Irving, Texas-based oil company has not publicly commented on how much compensation it sought.

Exxon Mobil did not take issue with the figure that Venezuela said it would pay.

It said the tribunal had credited $160.6 million in debt against the award.

"The remaining $746.9 million could be paid through a combination of approximately $305 million in PDVSA funds already held for this purpose by New York courts, PDVSA's cancellation of additional project debt owed by Exxon Mobil and payment of additional cash," company spokesman Patrick McGinn said in an email.

Rafael Quiroz, an oil industry expert and professor at the Central University of Venezuela, said PDVSA was successful in emerging with a significantly smaller bill than Exxon Mobil had demanded.

"What it shows is that Exxon didn't have well defined, well laid out all of what it was claiming," Quiroz said.

PDVSA said that Exxon Mobil's compensation demands had been "completely exaggerated."

"After four years of arbitration, the real amount determined by the ICC tribunal indeed represents less than the exorbitant sum initially demanded," PDVSA said in the statement.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Outcry in Nigeria as fuel prices more than double

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Irate drivers in Africa's most populous nation paid more than twice the usual price Monday after the government quietly removed a long-cherished consumer subsidy that had kept gas affordable, prompting fears of strikes and unrest. Gas powers Nigeria's generators because the national electricity supply is sporadic at best, and fuel also keeps engines running in traffic that can snarl for hours. The government's announcement—made over a long holiday weekend—drew outrage. "This New Year 'gift' by the presidency is callous, insensitive and is intended to cause anarchy in the country," said a joint statement by two unions who said they were planning general strikes and protests in the coming days. "We shall neither surrender nor retreat."

William Carey, donated millions to education, dies

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—William Polk Carey, an entrepreneur who founded a New York-based investment management firm bearing his name and donated millions of dollars to help found business schools at universities in Maryland and Arizona, has died at 81, his firm said Monday. The board of that firm, W.P. Carey & Co., issued a statement that the Baltimore native and corporate finance pioneer died Monday at a West Palm Beach, Fla., hospital, surrounded by family and friends. Carey gave $30 million in April to the University of Maryland law school, reports noted. He also made a $50 million bequest in 2006 to Johns Hopkins University to found the Carey School of Business at that Maryland university. And in 2003, the business leader and philanthropist also gave $50 million to Arizona State University in 2003 to found its W.P. Carey School of Business.

Expert: Wastewater well in Ohio triggered quakes

CLEVELAND (AP)—A northeast Ohio well used to dispose of wastewater from oil and gas drilling almost certainly caused a series of 11 minor quakes in the Youngstown area since last spring, a seismologist investigating the quakes said Monday. Research is continuing on the now-shuttered injection well at Youngstown and seismic activity, but it might take a year for the wastewater-related rumblings in the earth to dissipate, said John Armbruster of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, N.Y. Brine wastewater dumped in wells comes from drilling operations, including the so-called fracking process to extract gas from underground shale that has been a source of concern among environmental groups and some property owners. Injection wells have also been suspected in quakes in Arkansas, Colorado and Oklahoma, Armbruster said.

Nation

Last day: 23 Iowa campaign stops combined

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The White House their goal, Republican presidential hopefuls raced across Iowa on Monday in final, full-day of frenzied appeals for support in precinct caucuses that open the 2012 campaign. "It is the race you make it," an upset-minded Rick Santorum told voters soon to pick a winner.

Santorum drew large crowds as he hustled through five events; the six-person field had 23 combined. That and the $13 million or more already spent on television commercials was evidence enough of the outsized importance Iowa holds in the race to pick a Republican opponent for President Barack Obama next fall.

Campaigning like a frontrunner, Mitt Romney had one eye on his GOP rivals and another on Obama as he argued he is in the best position of all to defeat the president. "The last three years have been a detour. They're not our destiny," said the former Massachusetts governor, who is making his second try for the nomination and has been at or near the top of the Iowa polls since the campaign began.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul flew into the state accompanied by his son, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, and urged supporters to "send a message tomorrow night that echoes not just around Iowa but ... around the world." Many in the audience of about 300 chanted "end the Fed," a reference to the Texan's pledge to abolish the nation's central bank as a first step toward repairing the economy.

Most polls in recent days have put Romney and Paul atop the field in Iowa, with Santorum in third and gaining ground. More than a third of all potential caucus-goers say they could yet change their minds.

"Do not settle for less than what America needs to transform this country. Moderate candidates who try to appeal to moderates end up losing," Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, said in a slap at Romney.

Alone among the contenders, Newt Gingrich conceded defeat, at least in the first contest of the campaign.

After absorbing a pounding in television commercials from Romney's deep-pocketed allies, the former House speaker said he was looking ahead to next week's primary in New Hampshire, and then to one in South Carolina on Jan. 21

"I don't think I'm going to win, I think when you look at the numbers that volume of negativity has done its damage," he said of the Iowa caucuses.

Romney is viewed as the overwhelming favorite in New Hampshire, although Santorum, Paul and Gingrich have all said they intend to campaign there.

South Carolina figures to be more wide-open, the first contest in the South, and in a deeply Republican state.

If others were thinking about conceding Iowa, they did not show it.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry took swipes at Romney, Santorum and Paul in an appearance in Sioux City. "If you have my back tomorrow at the caucuses, I'll have your back for the next four years in Washington, D.C," he said.

Mom reunites with biological child 77 years later

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)—For most of her 100 years, Minka Disbrow tried to find out what became of the precious baby girl she gave up for adoption after being raped as a teen.

She hoped, but never imagined, she'd see her Betty Jane again.

The cruel act of violence bore in Disbrow an enduring love for the child. She kept a black and white photograph of the baby bundled in blankets and tucked inside a basket.

It was the last she saw of the girl—until the phone rang in her California apartment in 2006 with the voice of an Alabama man and a story she could have only dreamed.

Disbrow, the daughter of Dutch immigrants, weathered a harsh childhood milking cows on South Dakota dairy farms. Her stepfather thought high school was for city kids who had nothing else to do. She finished eighth grade in a country schoolhouse with just one teacher and worked long hours at the dairy.

On a summer day in 1928 while picnicking with girls from a sewing class, Disbrow and her friend Elizabeth were jumped by three men as they went for a walk in their long dresses.

Both were raped.

"We didn't know what to do. We didn't know what to say. So when we went back, nothing was said," Disbrow recalled.

Months passed. Her body began to change.

Disbrow, who had been told babies were brought by storks, didn't know what was happening.

Her mother and stepfather sent her to a Lutheran home for pregnant girls. At 17, she gave birth to a blond-haired baby with a deep dimple in her chin and named her Betty Jane.

In her heart, Disbrow longed to keep her. But her head and her mother told her she couldn't bring an infant back to the farm.

A pastor and his wife were looking to adopt a child. She hoped they could give Betty Jane the home she couldn't. "I loved that baby so much. I wanted what was best," Disbrow said.

She never met them, or knew their names. But over the years, Disbrow wrote dozens of letters to the adoption agency to find out how her daughter was faring. The agency replied faithfully with updates until there was a change in management, and they eventually lost touch.

Disbrow's life went on. She married a fruit salesman who became a wartime pilot and drafting engineer and they had two children. She worked as a dressmaker, silk saleswoman and school cafeteria manager in cities spanning from Rhode Island to Minnesota and Northern California before moving to the seaside town of San Clemente an hour's drive north of San Diego.

Every year, she thought about Betty Jane on her May 22 birthday.

Five years ago, Disbrow prayed she might get the chance to see her. "Lord, if you would just let me see her," Disbrow remembers praying. "I promise you I will never bother her."

On July 2, the phone rang.

It was a man from Alabama. He started asking Disbrow, then 94, about her background.

Worried about identity theft, Disbrow cut him off, and peppered him with questions.

Then, the man asked if she'd like to speak with Betty Jane.

Her name was now Ruth Lee. She had been raised by a Norwegian pastor and his wife and had gone on to marry and have six children including the Alabama man, a teacher and astronaut Mark Lee, a veteran of four space flights who has circled the world 517 times. She worked for nearly 20 years at Walmart—and especially enjoyed tending to the garden area.

Lee knew she was adopted her whole life, and grew up a happy child.

It wasn't until she was in her 70s that the search for her biological parents began.

Lee started suffering from heart problems and doctors asked about the family's medical history. She knew nothing about it. Her son, Brian, decided to try to find out more and petitioned the court in South Dakota for his mother's adoption records.

He got a stack of more than 270 pages including a written account of the assault and handwritten letters from a young Disbrow, asking about the tiny baby she had cradled for a month.

He then went online to try to find one of Disbrow's relatives—possibly through an obituary. "I was looking for somebody I thought was probably not living," said Lee's now-54-year-old son. He typed Disbrow's name into a web directory and was shocked when a phone listing popped up. "I kind of stopped breathing for a second."

On the phone with her biological daughter, Disbrow was in disbelief. Her legs began to tremble. She couldn't understand how a naive dairy farm girl without an education could have such accomplished grandchildren.

A month later, Ruth Lee and Brian Lee flew to California. They arrived at Disbrow's meticulous apartment on a palm tree-lined street armed with a gigantic bouquet of flowers.

Disbrow couldn't get over how Lee's hands were like her mother's. Lee was amazed at the women's similar taste in clothing. They pored over family photo albums and caught up on the years Disbrow had missed.

"It was just like we had never parted," Disbrow said. "Like you were with the family all your life."

Since then, the families have met numerous times. Disbrow has gone to visit grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Wisconsin and Texas. She is planning to travel to Alabama in the spring, where they will celebrate her recently marked 100th birthday.

Disbrow has started sharing her story with members of her church and community. The Orange County Register ran a story about Disbrow's journey in December. The family's improbable reunion also made the local newspaper in Viroqua, Lee's hometown in western Wisconsin.

"It has been such a surreal, amazing experience that I still think sometimes that I will wake up and it will just be a beautiful dream," the 82-year-old Lee said.

Disbrow's daughter Dianna Huhn, 55, of Portland, Ore., said the reunion has filled a void for her mother—one that for many years, the sharp, stylish woman with sparkling blue eyes kept a deep, dark secret.

"I have never seen my mother as happy," said Huhn.

The Iowa caucuses

ELECTION 2012

Republicans and Democrats in Iowa's 1,700-plus precincts will hold caucuses in schools, churches, private homes. How the process works:

For both caucuses Open to anyone who will be 18 by Election Day and is a registered Republican or Democrat; can register on night of caucus

GOP Republicans

1. Chairperson, secretary elected to handle the night's proceedings

2. Attendees pick a candidate either by paper ballot or show of hands; votes tallied and called into party headquarters

3. Delegates are nominated, elected by all participants; they attend county convention but are not pledged to support any candidate

Dems Democrats

1. Because President Barack Obama is running for re-election, the forming of initial preference groups around candidates will be omitted unless there is a request to form them for other candidates

2. If no groups are formed, participants elect delegates for county conventions; if groups are formed, the number of delegates for each group are determined; each group elects delegates from within the group; delegate selection ratified by everyone; numbers totaled at state level to determine winner

Source: The Des Moines Register

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Fire attacks at NYC homes, Islamic center probed

NEW YORK (AP)—A police security tower rose into the sky Monday, keeping watch over a globally prominent Islamic cultural center that was firebombed amid a handful of attacks being investigated as possibly linked bias crimes.

Police, who had made no arrests, released a sketch of a suspect and a videotape from a surveillance camera at a private house that is used as a Hindu house of worship and was one of the targets. The video shows a car pulling up Sunday night. Someone suddenly appears, lifts his right arm high and hurls a lit object that strikes the house and explodes into flames.

Earlier Sunday evening, the entrance to the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation also was struck by two Molotov cocktails, the types of bombs usually made of glass bottles filled with flammable liquid and corked with rags.

"But we are not afraid," said the center's assistant imam, Maan Al-Sahlani.

Besides the private house and the Islamic center, the other targets in the suspected arson attacks Sunday night were a corner store and another house. No one was injured in any of the attacks.

With New York Police Department cruisers parked outside the Islamic center and yellow police tape fluttering, Al-Sahlani met on Monday afternoon with a dozen other clerics from the city's Muslim community. A news conference was planned for Tuesday, the imam said.

Near a blackened, charred spot on the concrete overhang of the center's main entrance, the front gates remained wide open to the street on Monday, and anyone could walk in to worship.

"This is America, and we must continue to love one another," Al-Sahlani, standing in flowing ritual robes in the main prayer hall, said with a smile.

On Sunday, about 80 faithful had gathered inside for dinner when a firebomb struck at 8:44 p.m. A second one followed, striking a banner for the center's school over the door. There was no visible damage there.

Structural damage to the Queens Islamic center building was minimal, but the community was emotionally shaken, the Muslim cleric said.

"We were very surprised," Al-Sahlani said. "This has never happened here before."

ACROSS THE NATION

Father: Thankful for passers-by who saved children

LOGAN, Utah (AP)—Roger Andersen thought it was over. The 46-year-old lost control of his car this weekend on a winding Utah canyon road and slid into an icy river, trapping his 9-year-old daughter Mia and 4-year-old son Baylor, along with their friend, 9-year-old Kenya Wildman. The car flipped upside-down and quickly became submerged. "The first thought was, `So this is it how it ends," Andersen said while choking back tears Monday. "This could very easily have been a funeral for four of us." But it wasn't, thanks to a handful of passers-by who stopped and within seconds, jumped into the frigid river to help.

Police: Body found at Wash. park is that of gunman

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, Wash. (AP)—An armed Iraq War veteran suspected of killing a Mount Rainier National Park ranger managed to evade snowshoe-wearing SWAT teams and dogs on his trail for nearly a day. He couldn't, however, escape the cold. A plane searching the remote wilderness for Benjamin Colton Barnes, 24, on Monday discovered his body lying partially submerged in an icy, snowy mountain creek with snow banks standing several feet high on either side. "He was wearing T-shirt, a pair of jeans and one tennis shoe. That was it," Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said.

Asia

Taiwan president race darkened by spying charges

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's presidential campaign has taken a dark turn, with the opposition challenger accusing intelligence services under the control of incumbent President Ma Ying-jeou of tracking her campaign events for political advantage.

The allegations—unproven and denied by Ma—conjure up memories of Taiwan's unsavory one-party past, when Ma's party, the Nationalists, used their total control of the state apparatus to persecute opponents. While the island has since morphed into one of Asia's most dynamic democracies, many senior civil servants may still believe that serving the top political echelon involves cutting corners.

"Even if the president did not give an order for monitoring, the heads of intelligence were appointed by him, and they could take the elections as a good time to return the favors," the mass-circulation Apple Daily said in an editorial published Friday.

The Jan. 14 poll pits Ma, 61, against Tsai Ing-wen, 55, of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party. Polls indicate an extremely tight race.

The allegations of intelligence service abuse were first raised last week by Taiwan's Next Magazine, which said National Security Council Secretary General Hu Wei-chen instructed Justice Ministry investigators to monitor Tsai's activities in May after she became a presidential candidate. Hu reports directly to Ma.

Next said the bureau reported back to a Hu subordinate last month with details of Tsai's campaign events and her meetings with political activists, including evaluations of how many votes they were likely to bring to Tsai should they support her.

It said the information was then passed onto Ma.

The magazine published names of 28 Justice Ministry officials it alleged were involved in monitoring Tsai, and printed a purported bureau

To buttress its claims the magazine published the names of 28 officials from the Justice Ministry's Investigations Bureau that it said were involved in monitoring Tsai, and reproduced a copy of a purported bureau memorandum with the political evaluations.

Tsai said Next's allegations raised questions about Ma's oft-repeated promise to keep Taiwan's intelligence services out of politics.

"In a democratic society if the president directs the intelligence services to monitor a rival's campaign, that would be a very serious matter," she said.

For his part Ma denied receiving any information on Tsai and insisted he was opposed to using state organs for political purposes.

"I detest this kind of snooping and will by no means allow it to happen," he said.

The National Security Council acknowledged last month's meeting with the Investigations Bureau, but denied that it received any campaign intelligence from Bureau officials, or that any such intelligence was passed to Ma.

The Investigations Bureau said that it followed the activities of presidential candidates in line with its mandate to provide them physical protection, but was in no way involved with collecting political intelligence.

AP

Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party 2012 presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen waves to her supporters as she travels through neighborhoods in Taipei County, Taiwan, Monday, Jan. 2, 2012.

South Korea says 'new era' possible for Koreas

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president urged rival North Korea on Monday to use the transition of leadership after Kim Jong Il's death to usher in a new era of peace on the tense Korean peninsula, even as he warned the North against any provocations.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak reached out in his New Year's message to the North Korean government now led by Kim's son, Kim Jong Un, saying he has high hopes for a breakthrough this year in negotiations over the North's nuclear program.

However, Lee warned that Seoul would respond sternly to any North Korean provocations. Relations between the rival Koreas dropped to their lowest point in decades following the 2010 sinking of a South Korean warship that killed 46 sailors and North Korea's deadly shelling of a front-line island later that year.

Lee's comments in a nationally televised speech came a day after the North called on its citizens to rally around Kim Jong Un and transform themselves into his "human shields."

Lee said Kim Jong Il's death is "portending a sea change" for the fractured Korean peninsula. "If North Korea comes forward with a sincere attitude, it will be possible for us to work together to open a new era," he said.

The Korean peninsula remains in a technical state of conflict because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. North and South remain divided by a heavily fortified border, and their navies have traded deadly fire at their disputed maritime border over the years.

After a decade of warming ties, relations plummeted in 2008 after Lee took office with a firm policy of linking aid to the impoverished North to its commitment to dismantle its nuclear program. Most joint business ventures and other civilian, humanitarian and cultural exchanges were suspended.

Lee said the Korean peninsula is at a turning point with Kim's death, and "new opportunities always emerge amid such changes."

His speech shows South Korea "has no intention" of provoking North Korea, said Cheon Seong-whun, an analyst with the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul.

Tortured Afghan girl to go to India for treatment

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A 15-year-old Afghan girl severely tortured for months by her in-laws in an attempt to force her into prostitution will be sent to India for medical treatment, an Afghan official said Monday.

Sahar Gul's mother-in-law and sister-in-law were arrested and her husband was being sought, said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi.

The case has shocked Afghanistan, though rights activists say serious abuses against women and girls in the conservative society are common. President Hamid Karzai has said that whoever used violence against Gul will be punished.

According to officials in northeastern Baghlan province, the in-laws kept Gul in a basement for six months, ripped her fingernails out, tortured her with hot irons and broke her fingers. Police freed her last week.

The public health and women's affairs ministers visited Gul, who is now in a Kabul hospital.

She was freed from a basement at her husband's home last week after her uncle called the local police.

"It is a violent act that is unacceptable in the 21st century," Sediqi told reporters. "We are thankful of Sahar Gul's uncle."

He added that "if the police had not arrived in time she may have died."

He did not provide details on the treatment she would seek in India. But many Afghans with serious injuries or illnesses prefer to go to India or Pakistan for care because of poor medical services in Afghanistan.

Gul was married about seven months ago. Jawad Basharat, spokesman for the provincial police chief in Baghlan, said an arrest warrant had been issued for her husband, who is serving in the Afghan army.

"After police found out about the small girl Sahar Gul they took action and found her in the basement of the house in very bad condition," Basharat said. "Her nails were pulled out, she has injuries in all parts of her body, there are signs of burning on her body, she was suffering from different kinds of injuries."

He said that her mother-in-law and other members of the family were reportedly involved in what he described as "criminal activities," which he said included selling alcohol and prostitution.

According to preliminary reports, Basharat said, "they tried to force her into prostitution and she did not agree. This was one of the reasons that they detained her in the basement for six months."

Rahima Zarifi, the provincial director of women's affairs in Baghlan, said a commission had been set up under Karzai's orders to investigate the case.

"According to the neighbors in the area, Sahar Gul's in-law's were not good people. Besides selling alcohol, they were involved in prostitution and that is why they put pressure on Sahar Gul to join with them. She was not happy with it and that is why they put her in the basement, detained her for six months and tortured her," Zarifi said. "They pulled out her nails. You can see the signs of torture and abuse all over her body, several types of torture and abuse. They even burned her with hot irons."

Health Minister Suraya Dalil said that despite progress in women's rights, work remained to be done.

AP

This photo taken Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011 shows Sahar Gul, a 15-year-old Afghan wife, being carried in a wheelchair to a hospital in Baghlan, north of Kabul, Afghanistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Hong Kong government office contaminated

HONG KONG (AP)—The bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease has been found throughout Hong Kong's brand new, $670-million government headquarters. The checks were prompted after the education secretary came down with the potentially fatal illness last month. Health authorities said Monday that water samples taken from his new office's bathroom found traces of legionella bacteria as high as 14 times above acceptable levels. Authorities says the bacteria was found in nine more of 31 water samples, and that they are now disinfecting the building.

Indian police arrest 2 men for sacrificing child

NEW DELHI (AP)—Two men have been arrested in central India for allegedly killing a 7-year-old girl and cutting out her liver in a ritual sacrifice to ensure a better harvest, police said Monday. Lalita Tati disappeared in October and her dismembered remains were found a week later, Rajendra Narayan Das, a senior police officer in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh state, told The Associated Press. Police arrested two men, both poor farmers, last week and they told police they killed the girl to appease their gods and get a better harvest, Das said.

Crowd fights Chinese police at mosque demolition

BEIJING (AP)—A crowd of Muslims fought with police who demolished a mosque in China's northwest, a police employee and a human rights group said Monday. The violence erupted Friday in Hexi, a town in the Ningxia region, after the mosque was declared an "illegal religious place" and about 1,000 officers arrived to demolish it, the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said. It said 50 people were injured and more than 100 detained after several hundred members of China's Muslim Hui minority tried to stop the demolition. It cited a villager as saying two people died, but said it could not confirm that.

World

Arab League: Syrian tanks withdraw, killings go on

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian security forces are still killing anti-government protesters despite the presence of foreign monitors in the country, the head of the Arab League said Monday. But he insisted the observer mission has yielded important concessions from the Damascus regime, such as the withdrawal of heavy weapons from cities.

Syria's opposition cautioned the observers not to be taken in by President Bashar Assad's government, which has unleashed a withering military assault to crush a 9-month-old uprising. Opposition groups have been deeply critical of the mission, saying it is simply giving Assad cover for his crackdown.

"The Arab League has fallen victim to the regime's typical traps, in which observers have no choice but to witness regime-staged events, and move about the country only with the full knowledge of the regime," said a statement by the Local Coordinating Committees, an umbrella group of activists.

"This has rendered the observers unable to work or move independently or in a neutral manner," the group said.

The U.N. estimates more than 5,000 people have been killed since the revolt erupted in mid-March. Activists say that in the week since the observers started their work in Syria on Dec. 27, hundreds have been slain. The LCC put the death toll at more than 390 people since Dec. 21.

"Yes, there is still shooting and yes there are still snipers," Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby told a news conference in Cairo. "Yes, killings continue. The objective is for us to wake up in the morning and hear that no one is killed. The mission's philosophy is to protect civilians, so if one is killed, then our mission is incomplete."

"There must be a complete cease-fire," Elaraby said.

Elaraby stressed the achievements of the Arab League mission, saying Syria's government has pulled tanks and artillery from cities and residential neighborhoods and freed some 3,500 prisoners. He said food supplies have reached residents and the bodies of dead protesters have been recovered.

The monitors are supposed to verify Syria's compliance with an Arab League plan to stop the crackdown on dissent—a plan Syria agreed to on Dec. 19. The plan requires Assad's regime to remove security forces and heavy weapons from city streets, start talks with opposition leaders and free political prisoners.

The ongoing violence is reinforcing the opposition's view that Syria's limited cooperation with the observers is nothing more than a ploy by Assad's regime to buy time and forestall more international condemnation and sanctions.

In its statement, the LCC said the regime has been disguising soldiers and army officers in police uniforms and hiding their army vehicles to make it appear they have pulled out in accordance with the Arab League plan.

While most of the violence reported early in the uprising involved Syrian forces firing on unarmed protesters, there are now more frequent armed clashes between military defectors and security forces. The increasing militarization of the conflict has raised fears the country is sliding toward civil war.

The LCC said 20 people were killed across the country Monday, including 11 in restive Homs province in central Syria and three in Idlib province, which borders Turkey.

Syria has banned most foreign reporters and prevented independent journalism, making it difficult to verify reports. Witness accounts, activist groups and amateur videos have become key channels of information.

AP

In this image from amateur video made available by the Shaam News Network and shot on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, protesters gather in Homs, Syria.

Mubarak trial resumes amid acquittal speculation

CAIRO (AP)—The trial of Hosni Mubarak resumed Monday amid speculation that a recent acquittal of policemen tried in the killings of protesters could be a prelude to the dismissal of charges against the ousted Egyptian leader.

Mubarak is charged with complicity in the killing of more than 800 protesters during the uprising that toppled his 29-year regime last year.

The 83-year-old ailing Mubarak was brought by helicopter to the Cairo courthouse from a hospital where he is held in custody. He was then taken into the defendants' cage on a gurney, wearing dark sunglasses and covered by a green blanket.

Another Cairo court on Thursday acquitted five policemen of charges of killing five protesters in the capital's el-Sayedah Zeinab district during the Jan. 25-Feb. 11 uprising. The court said three of the defendants were not at the site of the killings while the other two fired on protesters in self defense.

The ruling angered families of the victims. Activists demanded that the killers be brought to justice and complained that similar cases are languishing in courts in several Egyptian cities.

On trial with Mubarak are his two sons, Gamal, his one-time heir apparent, and Alaa, along with the ousted leader's former security chief and six top police commanders. The Mubaraks face additional corruption charges in the same case.

The trial began Aug. 3 but has since been bogged down in procedural matters, including a demand by lawyers for the victims that the presiding judge, Ahmed Rifaat, be removed. That request alone took a separate court about three months to rule on.

Monday's hearing was adjourned until Tuesday, when the court is due to hear from the prosecution.

The acquittal of the police officers in el-Sayedah Zeinab and the relatively long time the Mubarak trial is taking before even starting to deal with the core of the charges against him have led many activists to brand the proceedings a farce, organized by the generals who took over power when the longtime leader was ousted.

The generals are led by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, Mubarak's defense minister for the last 20 years he spent in office.

The activists believe the generals remain beholden to the Mubarak regime, and only placed the former president and his two sons under arrest after mounting pressure by protesters. The Mubaraks were arrested in April, two months after the ouster of the regime. Activists believe this was long enough for the three to conceal evidence of their alleged involvement in either the killings or corruption.

Iran's navy tests cruise missile as part of drill

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran test-fired a surface-to-surface cruise missile Monday in a drill its navy chief said proved Tehran was in complete control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the passageway for one-sixth of the world's oil supply.

The 10-day naval maneuvers, which are scheduled to end Tuesday, were Iran's latest show of strength in the face of mounting international criticism over its nuclear program. Tehran has threatened to close the strait as possible retaliation to new U.S. economic sanctions.

The missile, called "Ghader," or "Capable" in Farsi, was described as an upgraded version of one that has been in service before. The official IRNA news agency said the missile "successfully hit its intended target" during the exercise.

An earlier version of the same cruise missile had a range of 124 miles (200 kilometers) and could travel at low altitudes. There were suggestions it could counter the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said at a regular online briefing Monday that France "regrets the very bad signal to the international community sent by the latest missile tests announced by Iran."

There have been conflicting comments from Iranian officials over Tehran's intentions to close the Strait of Hormuz and U.S. warnings against such an ominous move.

"The Strait of Hormuz is completely under our control," Iran's navy chief Adm. Habibollah Sayyari said after Monday's test. "We do not allow any enemy to pose threats to our interests."

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the Iranian exercise was a show of strength intended "to deter the world from continuing sanctions against it."

Barak said at a party meeting that he doubts Iran would close the strait because that would only bring harsher international sanctions.

Israel considers Iran an existential threat due to its nuclear and long-range missile program. Iran is also a major backer of Hamas and Hezbollah militants who are fighting Israel.

The West fears Iran's nuclear program aims to develop weapons—a charge Tehran denies, insisting it is for peaceful purposes only.

President Barack Obama has signed a bill that applies penalties against Iran's central bank in an effort to hamper Tehran's ability to fund its nuclear enrichment program, although the administration is looking to soften the impact of those penalties because of concerns that they could lead to a spike in global oil prices or cause economic hardship on U.S. allies that import petroleum from Iran.

The penalties do not go into effect for six months. The president can waive them for national security reasons or if the country with jurisdiction over the foreign financial institution has significantly reduced its purchases of Iranian oil.

The latest version of the Ghader missile was delivered in September to the naval division of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. At the time, Tehran said it is capable of destroying warships.

"In comparison with the previous version, the highly advanced Ghader missile system has been upgraded in terms of its radar, satellite communications, precision in target destruction, as well as range and radar-evading mechanism," said Rear Adm. Mahmoud Mousavi, a spokesman for the drill.

State TV showed video depicting the launch of two missiles, which it said could hit targets hundreds of kilometers (miles) away. The broadcast said two more shorter-range missiles were also tested.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thousands protest over new Hungarian constitution

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—Tens of thousands of protesters on Monday jeered Hungarian leaders outside a glitzy gala to mark the country's brand new constitution, accusing the government of exerting control over everything from the media, to the economy and religion. A diverse crowd chanted, whistled and hoisted placards outside the State Opera as Prime Minister Viktor Orban and guests celebrated inside. Many protesters called the premier the "Viktator." "The prime minister took an oath to defend the constitution, but instead he overthrew it," Laszlo Majtenyi, a former head of the media authority, told the crowd on Andrassy Avenue. "Tonight the Opera is the home of hypocrisy and the street the home of constitutional virtues."

Saudi to apply law for women only to sell lingerie

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia said Monday it will begin enforcing a law that allows only females to work in women's lingerie and apparel stores, despite disapproval from the country's top cleric. The 2006 law banning men from working in female apparel and cosmetic stores has never been put into effect, partly because of view of hard-liners in the religious establishment, who oppose the whole idea of women working where men and women congregate together, like malls. Saudi women—tired of having to deal with men when buying undergarments—have boycotted lingerie stores to pressure them to employ women. The government's decision to enforce the law requiring that goes into effect Thursday. The country is home to Islam's holiest site in the city of Mecca and follows an ultra-conservative form of the religion known as Wahhabism.

In Celebration of Her new Life

†Rosalia Aldan Fleming

November 09, 1924 – December 29, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: Alfred Flores Fleming
Children and In-Laws: Joaquin A. Fleming, Carmen A. Aquino, Consolacion "Connie" F. Powers, Dwight Ikehara, Alfonso S. Reyes
Parents: Joaquin Crisostimo and Manuela Concepcion Aldan
Parents –In –Law: Henry Gordon and Consolacion Flores Fleming
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: Engracia "Aya" A. Dwayne Johnson Sr., Tomas C. and Mariana S. Aldan, Teresita and Justo L. Sanchez. Ignacio C. and Merced DLG. Aldan, Francisco C. Aldan, Alfonso Diaz, Gene Black, Rodney Bordallo, Jose Manglona, David "Kondo" Sandbergen, Thomas F. and Ursula Untalan Fleming, George F. and Juanita M. Fleming, Albert F. and Consolacion Ayuyu Fleming

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her children and their families
Anuncia A. Reyes, **James** A. and Constanza Mendiola Fleming, **Ellen** F. Ikehara, **Michael** A. and Esther Sablan Fleming, **Donald** James Power, **Thomas** A. Fleming, **Deborah** and Kerat Fleming Mony, **Felipe** A. and Nora Manglona Aquino, **Manuela** A. and Rodel Manlulu

She will be greatly missed by her Sisters and In-Laws
Julita A. and Francisco C. Castro, **Helena** A. Diaz, **Maria** "Manting" A. and Antonio R. Sablan, **Pauline** A. Corliss, Margarita A. Aldan, Bernadita DLR. Aldan, Amparo DLG. And Jose P. Tenorio, Daisy F. Manglona, Lydia F. Black, Leonora F. Bordallo, Rudy F. Fleming

She will also be missed by 25 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

Her comfort and care were given by: Mary A. Reyes, Angelica Joy Tiapong and Revica Manuel.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at San Jose Church, Tinian followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Eucharistic Celebrations are also offered each morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church, Saipan.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 06, 2012. Her remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church at 7:45am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:am followed by Interment Service at Tinian Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Children and Family of the late
†Alfred Flores and †Rosalia Aldan Fleming

Campus Life

Israeli Arabs enter Jewish classrooms

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Israeli Arab Maram Faour, a teacher from the Arab town of Kabul gives an Arabic class to Israeli schoolchildren in a school at the northern Israeli village of Yokneam, Tuesday, Dec 20, 2011.

YOKNEAM, Israel (AP)—In an educational revolution of sorts, a growing number of Israeli schools are taking a novel approach to the instruction of Arabic: They're hiring Arab teachers.

The initiative is about far more than teaching children a new language. Educators say they hope to break down barriers in a society where Jewish and Arab citizens have little day-to-day interaction and often view each other with suspicion.

"It is very important to get past the stigmas. We have a chance to get closer," said Shlomit Vizel, principal of the Tidhar elementary school in Yokneam, a picturesque town in the rolling hills of Israel's northern Galilee region.

In a country where 20 percent of citizens are Arab, enlisting native Arabic speakers for the classroom would seem obvious. But a mix of politics and cultural differences over the decades have left Israeli students overwhelmingly separated between Jewish and Arab educational systems. With few exceptions, Jewish teachers teach Jewish students, and Arab teachers teach Arab students.

The "Ya Salam," or "Oh Wow," program—a play on words using the Arabic term for "peace"—is trying to change this trend with a new approach to Arabic, which is considered an official language in Israel and in theory is a required subject for all students. In reality, few Jews speak it well.

First, the program starts Arabic teaching in the 5th grade, two years earlier than normal. It also teaches conversational Arabic, instead of the formal literary Arabic that is traditionally taught. Most critically, it is bringing Arab teachers into Jewish classrooms.

Maram Faour, a young teacher from the Arab town of Kabul, is on the front lines of this effort.

The 29-year-old is now in her second year at Tidhar, where she says she is supported by her coworkers, embraced by her students and welcomed by parents.

"I feel like a regular teacher. I'm not a foreign teacher," she said.

This was not always the case. When she started, Faour was terrified about how she would be accepted. She struggled with the rambunctious and informal atmosphere of the classroom and was surprised to be addressed by her first name—something unheard of in the more hierarchical Arab school system. She sometimes went home in tears.

But then something clicked. She stopped worrying so much about the formal curriculum and focused on her relationship with the kids. With encouragement from her peers and program developers, she played games with the students, encouraged conversations with them, and taught them about Muslim holidays.

Her kids were surprised to see that she dressed like them, not in the traditional robe and head covering they had imagined. They learned that she vacations in Eilat, a popular Israeli tourist spot on the Red Sea, and that she uses e-mail and a laptop.

She brought in an Arabic storyteller one day. On another occasion, a musician taught the class how to play the darbuka, a Middle Eastern drum. She brought in her three young daughters to meet the class.

"I want them to learn as much as possible about Arabs in a positive light," she said.

Today, Faour is in firm control of her classroom. Dressed in jeans and a black shirt, she peppered her students with questions on a recent day, picking someone to answer by playfully throwing a yellow sponge ball to them. Nearly all of the students raised their hands to answer, and the lesson was conducted almost entirely in Arabic.

"My name is Adir. I live in Yokneam. I go to Tidhar School. I am 11 years old. I'm in 6th grade," said one boy. The class sang the alphabet song, and students eagerly came to the board to write letters in Arabic.

"We don't just learn. We do fun activities. It's more fun than our regular lessons," said sixth-grader Michal Zimmerman.

But the students also are learning some grown-up lessons. They speak about diversity, respecting "the other," and breaking the stereotypes held by many Israelis that Arabs are religious fanatics or terrorists.

"You can't generalize," said Ron Crispin, another girl in the class. "We live in one country. We have to live in peace."

Faour tries to avoid politics, but that's not always possible. During an air raid drill that simulated a missile attack, a student asked, "Do you also do this?"

"I said, 'They also fire rockets at us. We're also sad. We also want peace and quiet,'" Faour said.

Arabic is mandatory in all Israeli schools from 7th to 10th grade, but the requirement is unevenly enforced. Only about half of the schools teach it, and in many of those most students take it only for two years, according to the Abraham Fund, an advocacy group that promotes coexistence between Israel's Arabs and Jews.

Hebrew, the native language of Israel's Jews, is required in all schools, and schools in Arab communities generally start teaching it in the 3rd grade. There are hardly any mixed Arab-Jewish schools in Israel, since the communities generally live apart.

Working with Israel's Education Ministry, the Abraham Group launched the "Yaa Salam" program in 2005 on an experimental basis in 12 schools in northern Israel, and gradually expanded it.

Today, it is taught in 200 of the country's approximately 1,700 Jewish primary schools, most of them in northern Israel where many of the country's Arabs live. The ministry now runs the program, though the Abraham Fund still provides support.

"The goal is to break the stereotypes and fears and get to know each other. That's what has happened," said Orly Nachum, the northern district's Arabic language supervisor.

Israeli Arabs, unlike their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, hold full citizenship rights but often face discrimination in housing and employment. The Jewish majority often views Israeli Arabs with suspicion, citing their frequent identification with the Palestinians and anti-Israel statements by political leaders.

We, the family of

Camilo A. Orallo

"Milo"

Would like to extend our appreciation to all of our business clients, friends, and relatives here and in the Philippines for the love, support and prayers during our time of sorrow. Your daily attendance, thoughts and generous donations during the nightly rosary, Mass, and interment services has provided us with great comfort and relief.

We would also like to extend our special thanks to Jerry Tan, the Zapanta Family, the Macario Family, Elna Curate, Merlie Tolentino and Judy Mendieta, for all the never-ending support, friendship and love. Many thanks as well to the Kristo Rai Parish, Nuestra De La Paz Funeral Home and St. Peter's Memorial Chapel (Paombong, Bulacan, Philippines) for a solemn and beautiful service.

We are truly blessed for each and every one of you. We are forever grateful for all your sincere kindness.

From our family to yours, happy New Year and May God bless you all!

Thank you very much and maraming salamat po.

The Family

First Year Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

Juan Camacho Babauta

also known as "John"

We, the family humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass and Rosary are being offered per schedule below:

Date	Mass	Rosary
Tue. Jan. 3rd & Wed. Jan. 4th	6:00 pm	6:30 pm
Thu. Jan. 5th & Fri. Jan. 6th	6:30 pm	6:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 7th	6:00 pm	6:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 8th	7:30 am	6:00 pm
Mon. Jan. 9th	6:30 pm	6:00 pm
Tue. Jan. 10th	6:00 pm	6:30 pm
Wed. Jan. 11th	6:00 pm	5:30 pm

On the final day, Wednesday, January 11, 2012 dinner reception will be served at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Felix Lizama Babauta in San Roque.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Famagu'on-na yan I Familia

Life & Style

Occupy protest follows the 123rd annual Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The 2012 Tournament of Roses brought its flowery floats and strutting bands to a worldwide audience Monday under clear blue skies, and in its wake came a scruffier parade—hundreds of anti-Wall Street protesters.

The 123rd annual New Year's Day event, with the theme "Just Imagine," flowed along downtown Pasadena to the cheers of hundreds of thousands of sidewalk spectators.

An estimated 40 million people viewed this year's procession of 44 floats, 16 marching bands and 22 equestrian troupes on U.S. television.

There were 10 arrests overnight, including four felonies, as thousands of spectators staked out viewing places along the route but that figure was down from the previous year, police said.

"Everything went very, very well. We're very pleased," police Lt. Phlunte Riddle said.

On the heels of the two-hour parade came anti-Wall Street protesters in a pre-arranged demonstration.

The thunder of the retreating marching bands mingled in the air with chants of "Banks got bailed out, we got sold out" as the Occupy the Rose Parade demonstrators retraced about 1.5 miles of the 5.5-mile parade route before veering off for a rally near City Hall.

They carried a 250-foot-long banner that said "We the People" to represent the U.S. Constitution. Some also held a 70-foot-long octopus made from recycled plastic bags that represented the tentacles of perceived corporate greed.

"This is about getting money out of politics," said Greg Stevens, a 38-year-old public health lecturer at the University of Southern California. "I support everything this movement is about."

As the protesters marched by, some Rose Parade spectators yelled "get a job" while others snapped photos and cheered.

"It's kind of crazy but kind of exciting," said Alana Olvick, 26, of Valencia, Calif.

The ragtag group of protesters made an interesting comparison to the slick, glittering Rose Parade offerings.

"It's contradicting the parade," Olvick said.

Behind the protesters came three truckloads of Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies in riot gear but no arrests were immediately made and the protest was noisy but peaceful.

Occupy the Rose Parade organizer Pete Thottam estimated the crowd of protesters at 5,000, although police said it was around 400.

Police, parade and city officials held numerous meetings with the protest organizers to ensure that they did not disrupt the parade.

AP

Occupy protesters march along Colorado Boulevard during the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Monday, Jan. 2, 2012.

Rupert Murdoch takes to Twitter

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch has begun the new year by setting up in a new field of communications—he's started tweeting.

The media mogul, who is recovering from perhaps his most difficult year in the business, is posting on Twitter under the handle rupertmurdoch, spokeswoman Daisy Dunlop at News International confirmed Monday.

The account was opened over the New Year's holiday, but many doubted its authenticity because Murdoch, 80, has generally tried to stay out of the spotlight as his media empire comes under increased scrutiny because of widespread phone hacking at his U.K. newspapers.

Murdoch

Murdoch faced harsh questioning in Parliament last summer and may face additional questions from the wide-ranging Leveson Inquiry into media practices later this year, but he makes no mention of these troubles in his tweets, which include the News Corp. chief's New Year's resolutions.

"My resolutions, try to maintain humility and always curiosity," he tweets. "And of course diet!"

Murdoch had attracted more than 46,000 followers by Monday morning, just two days after he started tweeting. His wife Wendi Deng has also started tweeting—she's wendi-deng.

She refers to the setbacks of the last year in her tweets: "A lot of bad things happened in 2011 but I hope in 2012 we can put them all behind us and sail on to a bright future for everyone Wxx."

She also gently reminds fellow tweeters to spell her first name with an "i" at the end, not a "y."

The Murdochs' entry into the world of Twitter was met with some bemusement and some hostility by its denizens.

John Prescott, former U.K. deputy prime minister, came up with one of the wittier responses to Murdoch's unexpected surfacing at the very public, very popular micro-blogging site.

"Welcome to Twitter," he writes to the mogul, whose reporters were skilled at hacking into telephone messaging systems. "I've left you a Happy New Year message on my voicemail!"

Others express fears that the wealthy Murdoch will buy the Twitter site.

Murdoch also deleted a tweet in which he suggested that Britons might have too many public holidays for a country facing tough times.

At times in his tweets Murdoch sounds bored with his New Year's holiday. He complains that there are "too many people" on the island of St. Bart's, an exclusive Caribbean hideaway.

"Back to work tomorrow," he says. "Enough idling!"

Murdoch also tweets that some of his friends are "frightened" by what he might say.

In Celebration of his New Life

NICHOLAS (NICK) SABO RAMON

Born to life on February 8, 1942
was called to eternal rest on December 29, 2011

His memory will live in the hearts of his:

Mother: Blumel Karngemau Ramon
Wife: Francisca Tenorio Sablan Ramon
Children: Debbie/Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. (TJ Imrur, Isechal, Lalii, Mayumi and family)
Blumel R./Francisco S. Ada (Jesse, Francisco IV, Sabo, & Joseph)
Antonette R./Warren F. Villagomez (Sydney, Sage, & Cecilia)
Nick S./Gloria I. Ramon (Frannie)
Manny S./Junita S. Ramon

Brothers/Sisters: Nauru Ramon
Justino/Laisang Ramon and family
Selina R. Rechetuker and family
Goretti Ramon and family
Estelita R. Jennings and family
Carlos Ramon
Agnes A./Robert Schrack and family

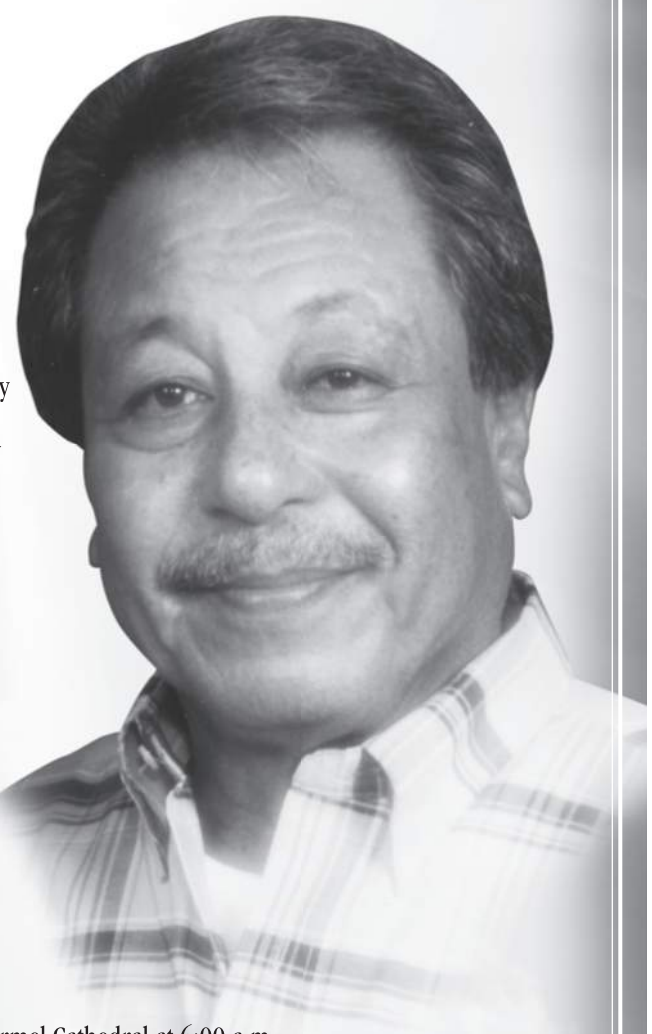
Brothers/Sisters in Law: Josephine T. Sablan and family
Magdalena S./Bruce Barker and family
Rita S./Jose S. Dela Cruz and family
John T./Gloria DLG. Sablan and family
Larissa S./Joseph A. Flores and family

Caregivers: Bernadita Mangahis
Marc Anthony Ausejo

In his new life, he now joins:

Father: †Kyoshi Ramon
Brothers: †Tatsuo Ramon
†Fermin Kebekol
†Aderiano Ramon

Parents in Law: †Manuel B. Sablan/+Cecilia T. Sablan
Brothers/Sisters in law: †Efrain T. Sablan
†Beatrice T. Sablan
†Ricardo T. Sablan
†Luis T. Sablan
†Joseph T. Sablan



Daily mass is offered at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.
On Friday, January 6, 2012, Nick's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by the Responso and Holy Rosary. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by the burial at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yuus Maase and Kom Kmal Mesulang

Frances, children, and family

Sister's affair with boss costs boyfriend his job

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My long-distance boyfriend, "Wayne," moved here two years ago to take a job working for my twin sister "Kim's" mentor. After five months on the job, Wayne was terminated and was replaced by—my sister! To say there are hurt feelings is an understatement.

Wayne and I were unaware that Kim had been having an affair with this much-older married father of two. He has now left his wife and kids and is living with my sister. Kim is enjoying her job as his assistant and reaping all the benefits of his long-established business.

I'm devastated by the betrayal. It frustrates me that after months of deception, my twin is benefiting from a massive indiscretion that ended a marriage and destroyed a family. We were always close, but I don't want to include her lover in any upcoming events in my life. She says they're a "package deal." How do I move past this—or should I?

DECEIVED BY MY EVIL TWIN

DEAR DECEIVED: I'm not sure what "upcoming events in your life" you're referring to, but if they include Wayne, his feelings should also be taken into consideration. How angry and resentful will he feel if he's forced to interact with the man who fired him so he could be replaced by your sister?

I can't decide for you how you will work this out, but I will offer this advice: For the present, make no hard and fast decisions. This could play out in any number of ways. Her boss could marry her, or he could return to his wife and family. Wait and see what the future brings. It's often full of surprises.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single adult female. I have a neighbor and friend I'll call Kurt. He has been terrific to me. He has given me things, taken me out a few times and seems very caring. I enjoy the time we spend together and I have developed romantic feelings for him. My problem is Kurt is gay.

I know I can't have the kind of relationship with him that I'd like to. Once, we spent the whole day together and I spent the whole time wishing it had been a real date. It seems like whenever we go out together I don't know how to handle the situation. Because he's a neighbor, I run into him a lot. I could use some advice on this.

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR IN TEXAS

DEAR NEAR AND FAR: You and Kurt appear to be compatible on many levels, but you must accept that as wonderful a person as he is—he cannot give you the romantic love you're looking for. He isn't "wired" that way. Wishing, hoping and dreaming won't change that—but it WILL waste your time and prevent you from looking for eligible men.

You need to put the brakes on this friendship until you have regained your balance and/or have met someone else. And tell Kurt why, so his feelings won't be hurt. I'm betting it won't be the first time he's heard it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is a grandmother being disrespectful when she purposely continues to misspell her 12-year-old grandson's name on cards and gifts?

HIS NAME IS JOE!

DEAR H.N.I.J.!: Not knowing the grandmother, I can't say for certain. She may be letting you know she's disappointed you didn't name the boy after his grandfather "Morris." She could also be illiterate or somewhat demented, but I'm betting she's letting you know she's not happy with the name you chose.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

India airs edgier TV shows—but cuts out the edge

NEW DELHI (AP)—Would the sex, drugs and rock-n-roll fueled TV show "Californication" be worth watching without the sex, drugs and rock-n- roll? What about serial killer series "Dexter" without the gore?

In an effort to attract younger viewers without offending the older ones, Indian TV is now showing some of America's edgiest shows—but cutting out the edge.

As India urbanizes and its middle class grows, a delicate dilemma has hit a media culture long dominated by local TV shows aimed at rural audiences, such as the soap opera "Baalika Vadhu" or "Child Bride," about a girl married off at age 10. While the young and hip audiences that attract advertising dollars want foreign imports, no broadcaster wants to upset conservative viewers or attract government ire.

"This is a very sensitive time for the media in India," said TV critic Shailaja Bajpai. "Many stations are afraid of government banning orders," but at the same time, output needs refreshing to bring in audiences."

So TV channels resort to inconsistent and clumsy self-censorship, snipping scenes that are central to a show's plot with abandon. While they bleep out profanities, they will also cut a reference to the drug "crack" from one part of a show, while letting it slide a few minutes later.

Even more absurd are the imports that have English subtitles to assist those with a shaky grasp of the language. Censors often let the spoken word slide through, but change it or strike it completely from the subtitles. So while a character on "The Big Bang Theory" is allowed to say the word "intimate," the subtitles only showed "int ------."

One incident turned an episode of "Friends" into a legend of unwatchable TV. The show hinged on the gag that two pages in a cookbook got stuck together and the character Rachel mistakenly made a fruit pastry with beef. The station bleeped out the word "beef," a show of sensitivity for Hindus' reverence for cows, leaving viewers to guess why her diners were so disgusted.

It's just as perplexing for the suddenly chaste vampires of HBO's lusty "True Blood" and for the serial killer star of "Dexter," who is constantly changing blood-splattered clothes for no apparent reason on Indian TV. Or for David Duchovny's "Californication" lech Hank Moody, who disappears into a bedroom with a beautiful women and then suddenly appears in a disjointed scene from later in the episode.

Nevertheless, young Indians, who have embraced Levis, McDonalds and MTV, are hungering for Western television.

"I no longer want to watch the stupid shows I watched with my family growing up, I want entertainment and there is very little on Hindi-language television," said Abhinav Mohan, a 22-year-old mass-communication student, who watches the disjointed imports instead. "Though heavily censored, I can still follow them."

Broadcasting the shows, while editing them into confusion, underscores the fine line entertainment companies like the NewsCorp-owned Star and FX are trying to walk to attract urban youth while not angering their more traditional parents.

Bollywood actors only began kissing onscreen in the last decade. As recently as 2007, an arrest warrant was briefly issued for Hollywood star Richard Gere after he kissed the cheek of Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at an AIDS awareness rally.

"Indian produced movies and TV are very formulaic, you always know what you are going to get," said Rahul Gupta, a media company owner in New Delhi. "Today's youth are more likely to get what they want from Hollywood than Bollywood and TV companies are starting to realize it and hope to cash in."

In an effort to head off government interference, the industry created its own regulatory body in June to deal with complaints. Now, in addition to the odd censoring, viewers must also suffer a banner that repeatedly scrolls across the screen, advising viewers how to complain to the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council. More than 3,000 have.

The complaints range from "scantily and vulgarly dressed women" on MTV's "Grind" to a scene "misguiding children to kill," on the southern Indian family melodrama "Muddu Bidda," or "Cute Girl."

So far, only six channels have been called in for a hearing. Their apologies have been enough to satisfy the council and prevent it from referring the cases to the government, which has the power to ban shows.

AP

In this June 15, 2004 file photo, a movie theater worker removes a poster of Bollywood film "Girlfriend," a film about a lesbian couple, after Hindu hard-liners demanded a ban on the film, in Allahabad, India.

Aretha Franklin is engaged to longtime friend

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin is engaged to longtime friend William "Willie" Wilkerson.

The Grammy-winning singer told The Associated Press in a statement Monday that she and Wilkerson are considering a summer wedding, perhaps in Miami Beach, Fla. The Queen of Soul wants to follow the ceremony with a reception on a private yacht.

The 69-year-old jokes: "No, I'm not pregnant."

Franklin and Wilkerson became engaged over the holidays.

She is considering Vera Wang, Valentino and Donna Karan to design her dress.

Franklin has been married twice before.

Walk this way, again: Steven Tyler is engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—Steven Tyler is ready to walk this way, again: The 63-year-old singer is engaged.

Tyler's representative confirmed Monday that the Aerosmith frontman is engaged to Erin Brady.

No other details were provided.

Tyler has been married and divorced twice.

He is one of the judges on the hit Fox TV show "American Idol."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Chicago's Charlie Trotter's restaurant to close

CHICAGO (AP)—One of Chicago's most famous and award-winning restaurants is closing. The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Charlie Trotter's will close in August after 25 years. In an interview, the 52-year-old Trotter told the paper that he will travel around the world and that he will return to college to study philosophy and political theory. Trotter says he's not closing the 120-seat restaurant for financial reasons, and says that once he completes his master's degree he will open another restaurant. Charlie Trotter's has long been considered one of the finest restaurants in the United States, with Trotter having won the prestigious James Beard award ten times. Charlie Trotter's has also been a training ground for some of city's top chefs, including Grant Achatz, Graham Elliot and Mindy Segal.

Berlin film festival to honor Meryl Streep

BERLIN (AP)—Meryl Streep is to be honored for her wide-ranging career at this year's Berlin film festival. Festival organizers said Monday that the 62-year-old Streep will be presented with an honorary Golden Bear, the event's top award, on Feb. 14. Festival director Dieter Kosslick says that "Meryl Streep is a brilliant, versatile performer who moves with ease between dramatic and comedic roles." The two-time Oscar winner will be honored at a screening of her latest movie, "The Iron Lady," in which she plays former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The festival also will screen older Streep films, including "Kramer vs. Kramer" and "Sophie's Choice." The Berlin event, the first of the year's major European film festivals, takes place Feb. 9-19.

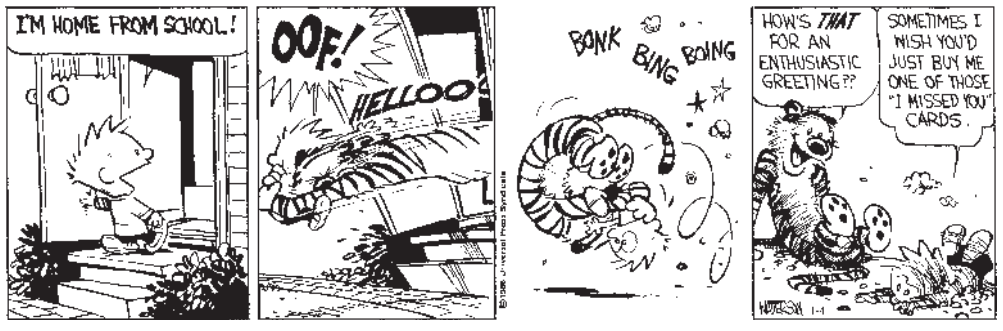
Tim McGraw's 'Emotional Traffic' set for release

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tim McGraw's latest studio album "Emotional Traffic," which was at the crux of a recent court battle with his record label, is set to be released Jan. 24. The album features 12 songs including the No. 1 single "Felt Good on My Lips." McGraw said in a statement from Curb Records that the new album is one of his best he has ever made. Curb Records had sued McGraw to prevent him from recording or signing with another label until he fulfilled what Curb believed was his obligation for a fifth album. Curb had argued that "Emotional Traffic" was recorded and completed too early. The label said it wanted McGraw's newest songs. McGraw won a ruling in November that said he could sign with another label and record new music.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

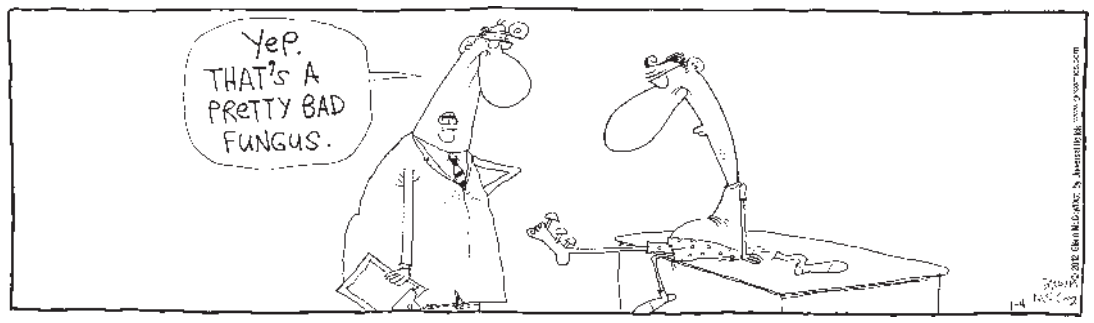
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YA KNOW, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
REALLY? DO YOU KNOW A PROFESSIONAL WRITER?
WELL, I HATE TO BE IMMODEST..
WITH YOUR PROBOSCIS, I BET THAT'S TRUE.
HURTFUL.
I'M SORRY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

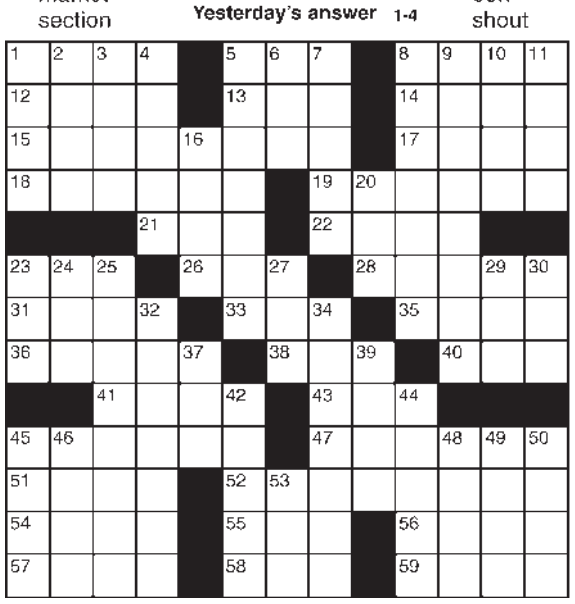
ACROSS
1 Gaucho's weapon
5 Apprehend
8 "Little Women" woman
12 Related (to)
13 Ostrich's cousin
14 La Scala solo
15 Back to zero, on "Wheel of Fortune"
17 Bantu language
18 Grommet
19 Small church
21 Listener
22 Warmth
23 Despondent
26 Water barrier
28 Place for a watch
31 Overly proper one
33 Fleur-de-—
35 Unmatched
36 Supermarket section
38 Mimic
40 Big Apple abbr.
41 Freeway access
43 Blond shade
45 Fluffy dessert
47 Paycheck increases
51 Swiss mountains
52 All of a sudden
54 Ceremony
55 Bill and —
56 Agony
57 Throw
58 "In what way?"
59 Curved molding

DOWN
1 Movie about a pig
2 Fine
3 Fragment of dialogue
4 Monitor location, maybe
5 On neither side
6 Pump up the volume
7 Sundance's pal
8 Charity events
9 Volcanic outbreak
10 Mahjongg piece
11 Drag behind
16 Peruse
20 Chop
23 Hot tub
24 "Entourage" role
25 Causes chaos, maybe
27 Actress Farrow
29 Crafty
30 Sleuth, slangily
32 Optician's product
34 Small songbird
37 Type measures
39 Birthright barterer
42 Clingstone, e.g.
44 Zoo favorite
45 Shopping center
46 Medley
48 Unescorted
49 Author Wiesel
50 "Auld Lang —"
53 Halloween shout

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	N	K	■	L	E	G	■	C	A	L	M
A	L	O	E	■	I	C	E	■	O	L	I	O
C	O	R	N	I	C	H	E	■	R	E	N	O
E	T	A	■	R	I	O	■	O	N	S	E	T
■	■	■	C	O	T	■	V	I	E	■	■	■
A	P	R	O	N	■	H	E	L	L	O	W	S
R	E	A	R	■	P	O	X	■	I	D	E	A
M	A	G	N	E	T	O	■	M	U	D	D	Y
■	■	■	F	V	A	■	N	O	S	■	■	■
C	R	A	T	E	■	N	E	O	■	M	A	G
H	I	F	I	■	C	O	R	N	W	A	L	L
A	L	A	S	■	A	D	V	■	E	R	G	O
P	E	R	T	■	B	E	E	■	E	X	A	M

Yesterday's answer 1-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julia Ormond, 47; Dave Foley, 49; Michael Stipe, 52; Patty Loveless, 55.

Happy Birthday: Plan your actions with a purpose in mind. Changes to your residence or adjustments to lighten your financial load should be your intent. Don't allow instability or uncertainty to hold you back or cause you to question what needs to be done. Take note of the facts and figures and follow through. Your numbers are 8, 14, 18, 24, 27, 31, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Consider what you want to work toward this year and start the ball rolling. Sign up for courses or make travel plans. The more incentives you have, the better you will do. Hard work will pay off and bring you greater opportunities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Clear up any questions you have or research information you need to help you with a project or job prospect you are working toward. Be prepared to travel further or to make a move if it will broaden your chances of employment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take on a challenge that will get you motivated to follow through with your promises and unfinished projects. A relationship can be taken to the next level, and a greater commitment should be made to a personal or business partner. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotional confusion is apparent if you don't plan and organize properly. Set your sights on philosophic or lifestyle changes that will improve your current personal situation. Someone from your past will help you out. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep things simple. You will face opposition if you take on too much or overextend your budget. Stick to the plan and do the best job possible. End your day relaxing and enjoying the company of someone you love. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give anyone the chance to complain. Focus on being your best and mingling with people who share your interests. You will learn a lot if you participate in an exercise that expands your cultural or community knowledge. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put creative effort into making your surroundings more comfortable. Make a workspace at home that will help you expand your interests or bring in extra cash. Romance is on the rise, and networking or socializing will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let someone's emotional whim ruin your day. Good fortune can be yours if you actively seek information that will contribute to a venture you want to put into motion. Don't let uncertainty stand between you and getting ahead. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Start working toward changes at home that will lead to a better situation financially, emotionally and physically. It's up to you to make things happen, but be sure to get the go-ahead if what you do will affect someone else. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can wheel and deal where your personal assets and liabilities are concerned. Open up communication with anyone with whom you have a pending agreement or from whom you need approval. There are gains to be made if you act fast. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Not everyone will see things your way. Avoid conversations that will hinder your plans. Focus on what you feel you can do in order to get what you want. Innovation will help you bypass those skeptical of your ability. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let the past lead you into the future. Bigger and better opportunities await if you remember what you have learned and reunite with people who can help you now. Greater financial stability is within reach. A partnership will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a strong will and always stand up for your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	1	6	2	8	7	9	
	4						3	
						8		
					3			
		8	1	4	6	2		
			7					
		4						
	3						7	
	9	7	5	3	1	4	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	5	1	8	4	9	3	7
3	9	8	7	2	5	1	6	4
1	7	4	3	9	6	8	5	2
4	5	3	8	1	7	2	9	6
9	8	2	5	6	3	7	4	1
7	6	1	9	4	2	3	8	5
8	1	7	4	5	9	6	2	3
5	3	6	2	7	8	4	1	9
2	4	9	6	3	1	5	7	8

Difficulty level ★★ 1/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING AL JOLSON (1886-1950) **Solution: 9 letters**

Y	T	B	P	U	E	K	A	M	O	D	R	A	T	S
M	R	S	O	S	W	A	N	E	E	R	A	B	B	I
M	A	O	O	M	E	R	I	T	L	E	Z	B	L	N
A	B	N	T	H	B	L	P	C	A	L	Z	N	D	B
M	R	N	P	S	O	O	I	E	D	E	A	O	L	A
A	E	Y	M	J	D	R	G	C	E	E	J	L	I	D
R	D	B	A	A	C	A	A	L	M	K	T	A	H	A
E	N	O	T	U	T	G	L	M	A	A	S	V	C	T
E	O	Y	S	S	A	I	M	L	L	E	K	A	W	T
T	W	I	O	R	V	A	L	E	U	E	N	S	I	E
N	E	P	D	E	L	A	N	L	T	T	D	P	N	L
U	L	E	D	A	L	T	B	G	O	O	F	O	T	O
L	N	U	R	O	R	S	A	R	E	V	U	O	E	I
O	A	I	N	T	A	P	O	P	U	L	A	R	R	V
V	A	E	C	G	S	D	A	N	C	E	R	T	S	E

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Adopted, All Alone, Angel, Avalon, Blues, Bombo, Cantor, Child, Circus, Dancer, Delmar, Garden, Host, Jazz, Jolie, Keeler, Lung, Makeup, Malaria, Mammy, Medal, Merit, Popular, Postage, Rabbi, Radio, Sinbad, Sonny Boy, Stamp, Stardom, Story, Street, Swanee, Talent, Tours, Troops, Vaudeville, Vera, Violetta, Volunteer, Winter, Wonder Bar, Yoelson

Yesterday's Answer: Reformed

CLASSIFIED ADS

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

DIETITIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Provides comprehensive nutritional evaluation and counseling services for dialysis patients and staff.
- Provides goal oriented intervention directed toward management of ESRD disease by education of the patient in renal diet and fluid intake management.
- Maintains a close working relationship with the multi-disciplinary ESRD team of dialysis in planning for patients care and attends departmental staff meetings.
- Attends facility in-services, meetings and provides educational programs requested.
- Documents all tasks thoroughly in patient's medical records to maintain dietary records and statistics.
- Establishes yearly goals with Medical Director/Unit manager in relations to specialty program/service.
- Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of dietary policies and procedures.
- Initiates and/or participates in patient education and treatment programs, such as developing dietary educational materials.
- Participates in professional and other community organizations and activities serving clientele.
- Performs all other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:
- Holds a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinic nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic, at Chalan Kiya or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

SPA VERDE (DYNAMIC MASSAGE) & LAGOON SPA

PMB 329, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 233-0233, 483-6668 • Fax: 233-6668
Email: lzmspn@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (2) Masseuse **Salary: $5.05 per hour**
Open date: December 30, 2011 **Closing date: January 09, 2012**

Recruitment object: U.S. citizens, green card holders, a person holding an umbrella permit with or without yet applied for CW-1, an immediate relative of a US citizen, person who has a parole or parole in place, or a person which qualify and have valid reason to apply CW-1.

Requirements: People with good character, warm & friendly, understanding & cooperative, and team player. Applicants must be able to work on weekends, holidays and night time shifts (till middle night). Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian speaking is a plus but not required.

Work hours are 40 hours per week. Work hours may be reduced, as the case may be on variable hours with a minimum of 32-36 hours per week. These may be also increased to more than 40 hours per week depending on our business demands. Overtime will be calculated by 1.5 times. Bi-weekly payroll. Company will provide training to qualified applicant.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume (with current picture) to Sterling Corporation Office, inside Spa Verde, located in Garapan area, across Fiesta Hotel parking lot (next to Micro Beach Hotel).

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TEOFILO V. MOLINYAWE, Petitioner, versus **SONIA REGIS-MOLINYAWE,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0470** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 13th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR SALE

$410 Acer Laptop 500G (New)
$489 Xbox 320G Complete Set (New) Call/Text 789-2757

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cyl., Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

Used Cars Wanted.
2002 above, Toyota preferred, Cash your car. Pls call 888-2205

IT&E

Life in Motion

PART-TIME TEMP OPERATOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

IT&E needs part-time operators to help man its 24-hour directory assistance terminals. May eventually assist with routing long distance, international calls and repair service trouble reports using computer-based keyboard, CRT terminal and AS400 computer terminal.

Must have

- computer and customer service experience;
- excellent telephone etiquette and English communication skills;
- logical thought process;
- friendly personality;

High school diploma is required. U.S. citizenship is also required due to U.S. Homeland Security requirements.

Must be willing to work evening and/or split shifts, if assigned. Majority of the shifts start at 4 a.m. Must type at least 25 wpm. Typing test will be given before interview. One year telephone operator/clerical experience desired.

Human Resource Office
IT&E
P. O. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

IT&E is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Please submit your application to the IT&E Human Resource office in Susupe no later than COB January 4, 2011.

WHATZIT Solution: On one's guard

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
GUARD
1 1 1 1 1
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames
WHATZ IT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in classified section

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG Sky Chefs is seeking for the following positions to establish a list:

- 1 - Cook Helper
- 2 - Merchandise Delivery Driver
- 1 - Admin Clerk

Interested applicants must submit a court and traffic clearances, picture identification (i.e. driver's license or mayor's office picture identification), Social security card, passport or birth certificate.

We are located at the Tun Herman Pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Preservation Office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-003

Opening Date: Wednesday 01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday 01/18/12**

METER READER

DUTIES: The incumbent in this position will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee. Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: Reads electric and water meters using a handheld device. Operates government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure are in proper working order. Prepares and submits deficiency or problem reports on meters. Assists other departments in finding customer locations and with service verifications. Locates new customers and ensures customers are hooked up and added to the system. Perform meter change outs. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $12,262.00 - $15,139.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and two years work experience. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-001

Opening Date: Wednesday, 01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Handles travel arrangements; Preparing estimates for travel; Processing travel documents such as authorizations, travel voucher claims and advances; Providing accounting support during annual audits; Analyzing contract payables; Encoding travel liquidation, refunds and payroll allotments. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $20,000 - $23,200.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associates Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JC MARKETING, INC. (SAIPAN)
A Company oriented in Sales and Marketing of Consumer, Medical and Industrial Products, is seeking an experienced,

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (MEDICAL/INDUSTRIAL)

College Graduate or High School Diploma with 4 years work related experience required. Knowledge on Medical and Industrial products, computer literate, must have good verbal and written communication skills; ability to work independently and effectively, ability to establish good relationship with clients/customers; ability to provide creative ideas for the development of new products, ability to research medical and industrial products and prepare proposals. Be able to negotiate with vendor or potential sources. Must have reliable transportation, valid driver license and health certificate.

Interested applicant must submit resume via email at adminspn@jcmarketinginc.com or fax at 235-6336. Current Police Clearance must be submitted together with resume.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
JVA No. 12-004

Opening Date: Wednesday, 1/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 1/18/12**

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs investigations. Writes reports. Performs smoke test. Performs chlorine test. Performs utility meter tests. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING.

Location: *Chief Financial Officer,* ***SAIPAN.***
Salary: $16,000 to $17,282 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
Position: Two (2).
Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, or GED, or ABE. Experience in wastewater trades duties: Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels. Experience in water trades duties: Operating reservoirs and distribution valves; Monitoring reservoir level and water levels; Responding to customer complaints; Installing, maintaining and repairing water lines; Monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Installing and/or replacing water meters; Performing disconnects and reconnects. Experience in power distribution trades activities: Testing apparatus to ensure proper operating conditions on low and high voltage; Troubleshooting power failures. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing daily reports; Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. MUST HAVE A VALID CNMI DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-002

Opening Date: Wednesday,01/04/12 **Closing Date: Wednesday, 01/18/12**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION,* ***SAIPAN.***
POSITIONS: *Two (2).*
SALARY: $17,282.00 - $19,425.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and three years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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"My wish is to see my Dad and two brothers!"
share the power of a wish℠
Saipan Tribune

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Hawks run away from Heat in 4th, win 100-92

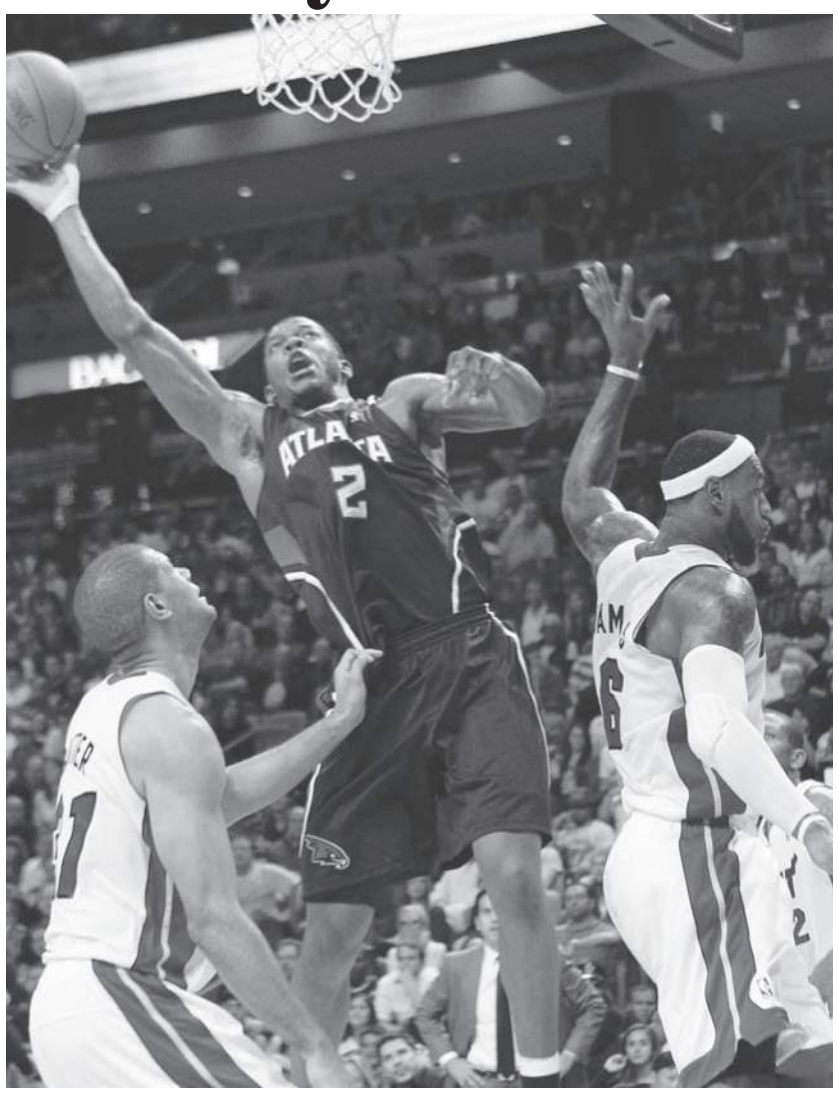
MIAMI (AP)—Joe Johnson scored 21 points and Tracy McGrady hit a pair of big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Atlanta Hawks ended Miami's perfect start by beating the Heat 100-92 in the NBA on Monday.

McGrady and Al Horford each scored 16 for the Hawks, who opened the final period on a 15-3 run to take control.

McGrady made perhaps the two biggest plays of the night in the final minutes, first throwing a lob to Josh Smith for a dunk, then hitting a 3-pointer that gave the Hawks a 93-84 lead with 2:26 left.

LeBron James scored 28 points, Chris Bosh had 19 and Dwyane Wade finished with 12 for Miami, which led by as many as 10 in the early going and took a four-point lead into the final quarter.

The Heat had won their first five games to start the season.



AP

Atlanta Hawks' Joe Johnson (2) shoots over Miami Heat's Shane Battier (31) and LeBron James (6) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, in Miami.

Timberwolves 106, Spurs 96

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 24 points and 15 rebounds to lead Minnesota over San Antonio, which lost Argentine star guard Manu Ginobili to a broken left hand.

Luke Ridnour had 19 points and nine assists and Wes Johnson added 14 points for the Timberwolves, who ended an 18-game losing streak with a win over Dallas on Sunday.

Ginobili injured his shooting hand in the second quarter. The two-time All Star will be examined in San Antonio on Tuesday.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and five assists and Richard Jefferson scored 16 for the Spurs.

Mavericks 100, Thunder 87

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 10 of his 26 points during the third quarter as the NBA defending champion Mavericks sent Oklahoma City to its first loss.

Shawn Marion scored 17 points, Jason Terry had 15 and Vince Carter added a season-high 14 for Dallas, which lost to the Thunder on a buzzer-beater in Oklahoma City on Thursday. Jason Kidd didn't score but had a season-high nine assists.

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Thunder, who had won five straight to start the season.

Celtics 100, Wizards 92

In Boston, Ray Allen scored 11 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as the Celtics won for the second straight night over Washington.

Paul Pierce had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who improved their record to .500 after losing their first three games of the season. Rookie Greg Stiemsma, making his first start, had 13 points and seven rebounds.

Andray Blatche led the winless Wizards with 28 points and nine rebounds, JaVale McGee had 17 points and 14 boards, and John Wall had 11 points.

Boston beat the Wizards 94-86 in Washington on Sunday.

Pistons 89, Magic 78

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Ben Gordon scored 26 points as the Pistons overcame early foul trouble to beat Orlando.

Rodney Stuckey and Tayshaun Prince added 14 points apiece for the Pistons, who have won two in a row after losing their first three games of the season.

Dwight Howard had 19 points, seven rebounds and five steals for Orlando, which was playing a night after rallying to beat Toronto. Hedo Turkoglu and Ryan Anderson each added 13 points for the Magic.

Raptors 90, Knicks 85

In New York, Andrea Bargnani and DeMar DeRozan each scored 21 points as Toronto held off the Knicks to end a three-game losing streak.

Jose Calderon added nine points and 12 assists for the Raptors, who opened up a 17-point advantage at halftime and withstood a late New York rally. Toronto blew a 16-point lead Sunday in Orlando before losing 102-96.

Carmelo Anthony had 35 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who played their second straight game without Amare Stoudemire, who has a sprained left ankle.

Pacers 108, Nets 94

In Newark, New Jersey, Paul George scored 21 points as the Pacers topped the struggling Nets for their fourth win in five games.

Danny Granger added 15 points and David West scored 13 for Indiana, which shot a season-high 52.6 percent from the field.

Deron Williams scored 22 points and rookie MarShon Brooks added 21 for the Brooklyn-bound Nets, who have not led for a second in their two losses at home in their final season in New Jersey.

The Nets, who have lost five straight, played without Brook Lopez (broken foot) and Kris Humphries (sore shoulder).

Suns 102, Warriors 91

In Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and rookie Markieff Morris added 16 points to lead the Suns past Golden State.

Jared Dudley had 15 points and Channing Frye and Shannon Brown added 10 each for the Suns, who have won six straight games against the Warriors. Phoenix has not lost to Golden State at home since March 8, 2005—a 13-game stretch.

Monta Ellis had 18 points, Dominic McGuire scored 14 and Brandon Rush finished with 13 for the Warriors, who lost their first road game after opening the season with four straight wins at home.

Jazz 94, Hornets 90

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 22 points and Devin Harris added 19 to lift Utah over New Orleans.

Josh Howard added 13 points, including six straight in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 80. C.J. Miles had 11 points and four rebounds for the Jazz, who have won two at home to offset three blowout losses on the road.

Jarrett Jack scored a season-high 27 points as New Orleans dropped its third straight.

Nuggets 91, Bucks 86

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored 21 points, including a pair of free throws in the final seconds, as the Nuggets topped Milwaukee.

Al Harrington added 17 points and Ty Lawson 16 for the Nuggets, who were playing their third game in as many nights.

Stephen Jackson scored 17 points and Carlos Delfino added 14 for the Bucks, who were denied their third straight win.

The Nuggets were without center-forward Nene, who sat out with a bruised left heel.

Wade changes diet, sees benefits

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade was sitting on a table in the Miami Heat training room about an hour before game time Sunday, doing something he never would have envisioned a few years ago.

In his lap: Small servings of pasta and fruit.

"When it comes to food," Wade said, "I understand the things that I need now."

Wade turns 30 later this month, and in his ninth pro season nutrition is as important to him as any other part of his regimen. That wasn't always the case: Even when he was on his way to being MVP of the NBA finals in 2006, Wade could get away with eating just about anything he wanted, chicken fingers and cheeseburgers seeming like staples of his diet.

Not anymore. Farewell, sweets. Hello, salads.

And Wade says changing the way he fuels his body has him feeling as healthy as ever.

"The protein, the drinks, the carbohydrates, I know all the things I need," Wade said. "The biggest thing is that I've talked with a nutritionist, who's working with the team, who understands what we need, how much we practice, what weight I need to be at, what body fat, this, this and this. Put them together, come up with a master plan and I reap the benefits."

So are the Heat, who are 5-0 for the first time after polishing off the Charlotte Bobcats 129-90 on Sunday night not long after Wade polished off that pasta-and-fruit dinner. Wade came into the season with a body fat of less than 4 percent, but says he has enough strength and bulk to get through the grind of a condensed 66-game regular season, and credits the culinary changes for that belief.

One of his secrets: Chlorophyll.

Yes, the stuff that allows plants to extract energy from light is helping energize Wade as well.

"I put it in juices for him," said Richard Ingraham, a personal chef for Wade and his longtime girlfriend, Gabrielle Union. "He does a juice now that I make out of beets, chlorophyll, ginger. I'm giving him a nature-made Red Bull. It's all about giving him energy and keeping him as healthy as possible."

Ingraham often tweets descriptions and photos of some of the things he's whipping up in the kitchen, whether it's red velvet waffles, toffee butter cookies or spice cake with cream cheese frosting and a rum glaze.

Union has been known to tweet her delight with some of the chef's selections. Wade doesn't mention them often, and apparently, there's a reason for that.

"They're not for me," he said. "That's not mine. That's the ladies."

Wade loses about five pounds per game, so his postgame meal tends to be as important - if not more so—than the pregame one. Ingraham tends to keep things simple: chicken breast, turkey breast, that sort of thing. On occasion, he says he'll make one of Wade's former favorites as a treat, but for the most part Wade sticks to the better choices.

Not long ago, Wade tweeted his breakfast menu: Bacon and egg whites on wheat toast, calling it "Breakfast of a champion." He still likes cookies and milk sometimes, but clearly, his palate is changing.

"He doesn't really like vegetables," Ingraham said. "When I put the salad down, I know that's something he really doesn't want to do, but he knows it can help him. It's not like I'm putting down asparagus. We're taking baby steps. But it works."

Wade agrees—it is working. And someone who once famously said he'd rather eat just about anything other than salad is starting to change his tune.

"It's working for me," Wade said. "It's not bad. It's better than I thought. Just trying to give my body an edge. I'm just trying to do whatever I can within my limitations of doing it. Most of my salad consists of fruit. It's helping me out. I'm just trying to figure out ways that I can make sure I at least give my body a chance to be as healthy as it can be."

Marlins' Ramirez says he'll accept switch to 3B

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Hanley Ramirez says he'll accept a position switch to third base so Miami Marlins newcomer Jose Reyes can play shortstop.

When Reyes signed a $106 million, six-year deal with Miami last month, there was speculation Ramirez was unhappy about being supplanted at short. But new manager Ozzie Guillen sold Ramirez on the idea.

"I have spoken with Guillen," Ramirez said. "What we want is to win with the Marlins. We will see what's going to happen with the position switch and everything else. If it's third base, OK. Wherever they put me to win, I will do so."

With Reyes at shortstop and Ramirez at third, the Marlins become stronger defensively at both positions, and more potent offensively. Reyes hit .337 with the New York Mets last year to win the NL batting title, and Ramirez—a career .306 hitter—was the 2009 batting champ.

The two Dominicans are friendly, although Reyes recently said he hadn't heard from his fellow All-Star since signing.

"Between Reyes and me there is no problem," Ramirez said. "I respect him very much. He is a great person."

Ramirez spoke while taking batting practice at a Santo Domingo stadium Friday. He missed the final two months of last season with a left shoulder injury that required surgery.

"The shoulder is responding, and it's 95 percent rehabbed," Ramirez said. "I'm happy and better than ever."

He said he's excited about the Marlins' offseason spending spree, which included the signings of Reyes, left-hander Mark Buehrle and All-Star closer Heath Bell, each an All-Star.

"We are a new Marlins club," Ramirez said. "There's also a new Hanley. Good stuff is coming for next season."

Time to peak, playoffs are here

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The way the Green Bay Packers blew through the regular season, it would be foolish to pick against them repeating as Super Bowl champions.

Yet they aren't on the hottest streak nor playing the best football as January rolls around. And as the Steelers, Giants and, yes, the Packers have proven in recent years, being a wild card isn't an overbearing burden, so don't dismiss Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Detroit or Atlanta entirely.

New England, the top seed in the AFC with a 13-3 record, and New Orleans, No. 3 in the NFC, haven't lost in the second half of the schedule. Like Green Bay (15-1), both have dynamic, sometimes unstoppable offenses led by magnificent quarterbacks, bolstered by a deep and dangerous group of receivers.

All three also have so-so defenses that often require Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees and Tom Brady to win shootouts. That's a difficult way to prosper in the postseason, particularly when playing against a rugged, versatile defense such as the 49ers, Ravens and Texans possess.

"A lot of it is working on what we need to work on; working on things that have been a problem for us, that if they come up again we need to handle better," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, not mentioning in particular a penchant for falling into deep holes. New England rallied from 17-0 and 21-0 deficits to win its past two games.

Remember, also, that New England has lost its past three postseason games, including at home to the Ravens and Jets the past two years.

Behind Brees' record-setting performances, the Saints soared past all eight opponents at home, but if they can handle the Lions next Saturday night in the Superdome, then they must head to San Francisco. And if they get by the formidable Niners, who rode a stingy, big-play defense to a 13-3 mark, a date at potentially frigid Lambeau Field is likely.

That is, if the Giants don't start partying like it's 2007. They were seeded fifth that year, but closed the regular season with a close loss to unbeaten New England. Then the Giants knocked off division winners Tampa Bay, Dallas and Green Bay before shocking the Patriots for the championship.

New York won three of its last four, including impressive defensive efforts in wins over the Jets and Cowboys to grab the NFC East title. Defense was an issue for much of the season, but with the pass rush suddenly reborn, the Giants can be dangerous.

"Different guys, different teams. I'd love to have the same ending as the `07 team," Giants guard Chris Snee said. "We certainly have the capability of doing that, as we have shown. I'm happy just to be in the playoffs. We'll take it from there. I don't spend too much time reminiscing about that glorious time in our life."

Baltimore, like New Orleans and Green Bay, went 8-0 at home and is an entirely different team on the road (4-4). Still, with some help from outside—ironically, the AFC North rival Steelers are the most likely to provide it—the Ravens might not have to leave the Inner Harbor to get to Indianapolis in February.

AP
New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick watches practice at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011.

Ah, the Steelers. The loss of running back Rashard Mendenhall to a torn right knee ligament is particularly damaging for a veteran team that has been to the Super Bowl three times in the past six seasons, winning twice.

Pittsburgh was the only contender not to lose to a weak team, falling twice to Baltimore, and to San Francisco and Houston. The Steelers won seven of their last eight as their supposedly aged defense looked fresh and frugal.

"We have a lot of veterans who know what January football is all about," said safety Ryan Clark. "Now's the time to go play it.

"Now we have to go and play better on the road," he added of Sunday's game in Denver. "I believe this team can win anywhere."

When a team is peaking, that certainly is true. The Steelers (2005) and Packers (2010) got going in December and carried their superb play right through the postseason.

Unfortunately for some playoff qualifiers, their recent performances spell early exit.

The banged-up Texans (10-6) lost their final three games, are playing a rookie, third-string quarterback, and have never been in the playoffs. Their opponent Saturday is Cincinnati (9-7), loser of three of its past five, backing into the postseason thanks to other team's defeats in their finales.

Detroit was torrid in going 5-0, tepid in losing five of the next seven. The Lions (10-6), in their first playoffs since 1999, already have lost at New Orleans this season.

Atlanta went 4-4 on the road and, barring a slew of surprises, won't get a home game. The Falcons don't match up well with any of the NFC's other playoff teams except, perhaps, the Giants. A win in the Meadowlands on Sunday wouldn't be shocking, but anything beyond would be.

Then there's Denver (8-8), which sneaked away with the AFC West despite losing its final three games as Tim Tebow stopped performing great escapes. The Broncos have a good defense, a terrific placekicker, and a lot of questions.

"It's what you make it," coach John Fox said of the Super Bowl chase. "I know not too many years ago, there was a team in New Orleans that lost their last three, and I think they won the Super Bowl."

These Broncos don't resemble those Saints at all.

Colts fire Polians as cleansing begins

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Cleaning out the Colts front office may be only the start of the changes in Indianapolis.

Team owner Jim Irsay fired team vice chairman Bill Polian and his son, Chris, the Colts' general manager on Monday. He said there was a good chance coach Jim Caldwell will be back next season, but his evaluation was not over.

He also must still decide whether a healthy Peyton Manning and a new quarterback can co-exist in the same locker room, and which veteran free agents come back next year, if any.

"I don't think there's ever been a year in the NFL where a team went 2-14 and there's not been changes," defensive captain Gary Brackett said Monday, less than 24 hours after a season-ending loss at Jacksonville.

Outsiders had expected the first order of business to be the firing of Caldwell, who won 14 straight games and advanced to the Super Bowl in his first season as Colts coach. Caldwell said he simply went about his business Monday, speaking with Irsay following the 19-13 loss at Jacksonville and with both Polians on Monday, part of his usual routine.

"You lose as many games as we lost in a year, there's a problem, there's an issue," Caldwell said. "But when we were 14-2, the way you guys put it, my job was in limbo then, right?"

The elder Polian had constructed Super Bowl teams in Buffalo and Indy, and an NFC title contender at Carolina.

But troubling signs emerged this season as the Colts lost time and time again—13 straight at one point—with Manning sidelined to recover from Sept. 8 neck surgery. And it was Manning who suggested he and Bill Polian were not on the same page.

Polian said on one of his weekly radio shows that he and the four-time league MVP had discussed the possibility of establishing a transition plan at quarterback and that Manning was OK with it. Manning later said the two had never discussed the 2012 draft plans, which include the No. 1 pick amid speculation that the Colts will take Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck to groom as Manning's successor.

Then, just before Christmas, Polian told local reporters that Manning would fail his exit physical, a move that would actually help the Colts because it would allow him to continue working out at the team complex during the offseason.

"That was kind of news to me," Manning told reporters Sunday, then said he probably could pass the physical.

Fans have been clamoring for the ouster of Caldwell and both Polians. Irsay, a frequent poster on Twitter, has been listening.

"I want 2 thank all ColtsFans.. here,throughout the country n abroad,4ur tremendous,loyal support all year long. Ur feedback is heard n noted," he tweeted Monday morning.

For their part, players offered support for Caldwell, who just wrapped his third year as head coach in Indy.

"One thing about Jim is that he's a stand-up guy, and guys respect that," cornerback Jerraud Powers said. "He's a great coach, a good guy, and it was unfortunate situation this year. But he never lost the locker room."

NFL BRIEFS

Rams fire coach, GM after another dismal year

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Next year will be Chris Long's fifth season with the St. Louis Rams. The defensive end will be playing for his fourth coach in a seemingly endless cycle of futility. Having survived Scott Linehan, Jim Haslett and Steve Spagnuolo, who knows what's next? And this time, the Rams also are shopping for a general manager. "It's building, it's rebuilding. It's building, it's rebuilding," Long said. "We take some hits and we have to get back up and dust ourselves off. We'll certainly have to dust ourselves off after this season." Spagnuolo and GM Billy Devaney were fired Monday, one day after the Rams wrapped up a 2-14 season tied for the NFL's worst. Kevin Demoff, vice president and chief operating officer, said owner Stan Kroenke made the decision Sunday night. Demoff said a report that former Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher had already been scheduled for the first interview was "100 percent false." But he added that Fisher was a "potentially attractive candidate."

Buccaneers fire head coach Raheem Morris

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are dumping coach Raheem Morris, although not necessarily their determination to win with one of the NFL's youngest teams. Morris was fired Monday after three seasons that raised questions about ownership's commitment to winning because the club has resisted spending large amounts of money in free agency. A 45-24 loss to the Atlanta Falcons in Sunday's season finale was the 10th straight following a 4-2 start. The skid was the franchise's longest within one season since 1977, when the Bucs lost 12 in a row to extend the longest losing streak in league history to 26 consecutive games over two years. Morris went 17-31, including a 10-6 mark in 2010, when the Bucs narrowly missed the playoffs. His entire staff of assistants was dismissed, too. "In these things it is not just one thing, but I will point to just the progress of the team and where we're at," Bucs co-chairman Joel Glazer said at a news conference. "Again, you can't point to one thing or another. You look at totality of the situation when making your decision." The 35-year-old Morris was hired in January 2009, replacing Jon Gruden after Tampa Bay lost the final four games of 2008 to miss the playoffs following a 9-3 start.

NMASA

From Page 28

ners of NMASA monthly awards, but federations are also allowed to nominate outside the list, provided they justify their choice.

For the Male Athlete of the Year award, 22 individuals are eligible for the covered plum. The list includes bowling's Robert Talavera, who won the monthly award in January and February, Raymond Zapanta (May), Paul Pangelinan (July), Simon Manacop (October), and Alex Castro (November), badminton's Dick Guintu (April), athletics' Clayon Kenty, and the members of the CNMI Baseball Team (Joshua Jones, Manny Sablan, Vicente Cepeda, Jerome Delos Santos, Franco Flores, Miguel Iguel, Jesus Iguel, Thomas Joab, Byron Kaipat, Keoni Lizama, Juan Maratita, Tyrone Omar, Craig Sanchez, Elton Santos, and Eric Tenorio) that won the gold medal in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia. The NMASA December awardee, who will also be selected in tomorrow's meeting, is eligible for the year-end citation, too.

Three-time NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award winner Yvonne Bennett leads the 2011 nominees. The CNMI sprinter won the June plum after earning one gold and two bronze medals in the Oceania championship in Samoa. Bennett will battle football's Lalaine Pagarao (January winner), triathlon's Susan Marchitti (March) badminton's Hannah Choi (April), and bowling's Ron Cal (May), Gloria Omechelang (July and October) and Lala Taitano (November) for the 2011 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award .

For the Male Student Athlete of the Year, it will be a race among nine individuals. Swimming has three nominees in Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang (February) and Kensuke Kimura (November) and Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru (October). Tennis' Rafael Jones is also on the roll and is the lone nominee to win the monthly plum twice (April and May). Completing the nominees are tennis' Christian Miller (August), football's Jehn Joyner (July), sprearfishing's David Lizama (June), basketball's Juan Maratita (March), and bowling's Marion McKenzie (January).

Tennis dominates the Female Student Athlete of the Year nominees with three-time winners Tammy Ackerman (February, March, and August) and Mikayla Lopez (April, June, and November), and two-time winner Thea Minor (January and March) topping the list. Joining them are athletics' Rachel Abrams (September), and swimming's Angel Marie Tan (October).

Athletes and officials selected for the various awards will be honored during the NMASA Annual Banquet next month.

THEA

From Page 28

U18 Canterbury Junior Championships, which will be held at the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre, in Ashburton, from Jan. 22 to 28.

Next up for the 16-year-old Minor is the New Zealand U18 ITF Summer Champs, which will run from Jan. 29 to Feb. 8 in Auckland. There will be two venues for the Summer Champs—the Scarbro Tennis Centre in Auckland and Manukau Tennis Centre in Manukau City.

From Auckland, Minor will go to Wellington for the last stop of her New Zealand trip. In Wellington, the Saipan Southern High School student will participate in the Tennis Central U18 Junior ITF Tournament. Minor's last competition will take place at the Renouf Tennis Centre from Feb. 7 to 11.

These three New Zealand tournaments were the same events that gave former CNMI No. 1 junior player Ji Hoon Heo ranking points. Heo joined these competitions twice, while Minor will be participating in these events for the first time.

However, the New Zealand contests will not be Minor's first in the Junior ITF circuit, as last year, she had already entered three events that offered ranking points. Minor debuted in the 2011 Open Junior BNP Paribas of New Caledonia in June last year and joined both the singles and doubles event. In the singles, she had a bye in the Round of 64 before losing to New Zealand's Danielle Feneridis in the round of 32, 0-6, 0-6. Then in the doubles, Minor teamed up with Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene and they bowed to Australia's Alexcia Hallal and Lara Palmer, 1-6, 3-6.

In the same month, Minor moved from New Caledonia to Fiji for the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships where she also dropped her opening games both in the singles and doubles events. Minor lost to Hine Elizabeth Wilson in the singles game, 6-7(6), 3-6. In the doubles, she partnered with the Solomon Islands' Amanda Korinihona and they fell to the Hong Kong pair of Christy Chan and Maggie Ng, 2-6, 3-6.

Minor's last Junior ITF event in 2011 was the Air Pacific Oceania Closed Junior Championships, which was also held in Fiji in August. For the third time, Minor faltered in her opening match, suffering a 1-6, 0-6 beating at the hands of Australia's Celine Lenertz. In the doubles, the CNMI bet joined forces with Vanuatu's Lorraine Banimataku and lost anew to New Zealand's Emily Fanning and Australia's Abbie Myers, 0-6, 2-6.

"I hope to get better results in the Junior ITF events in New Zealand and will work hard to earn ranking points," Minor said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* a week after receiving the invite for the New Zealand trip.

SAN ANTONIO

From Page 28

as he was held to only two field goals in the last five minutes of the match.

San Antonio led from the opening tip to the finish, capitalizing on Chalan Kanoa's slow start. Chalan Kanoa was limited to eight points in the first period.

BRACKET B
Chalan Kiya 75, Dandan 64

In the second game Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands notched its fifth win in seven games after downing Dandan/Hawaiian Rock.

Jason Bahillo paced Chalan Kiya with his 23 points, while Dante Tabora chipped in 19. Jeff Bahillo and Warren Villegas also finished in double figures for Chalan Kiya with 12 and 10, respectively.

Villegas made eight of his total points in the fourth quarter to give Chalan Kiya enough cushion en route to the 11-point victory.

Daniel Dela Cruz topscored for Dandan (1-5) with 18 markers.

Kagman 83, As Lito 76

The other Bracket B game resulted in an upset with Kagman/Destroyer prevailing over As Lito/Chow Queen.

Kagman only gained its second win in five games, but it handed As Lito its first loss after five matches.

Perry Inos anchored Kagman's surprise victory, as he sizzled for 35 points. He scored nine of the team's last 11 points, turning a 56-59 third quarter deficit to a seven-point win.

Four other Kagman players contributed twin digits in scoring with Joe Ito nailing 17 and Jonathan Detera, Arthur Montes, and Walter Brillo making 10 each.

Meanwhile, action in the MDX caging will resume with six matchups this Sunday after a weeklong break.

First Game

San Antonio/Gene's Barber 60 – Alegre 14, Aranda 13, Ne. Salem 9, Palacios 9, Castro 8, Mariano 5, De Guzman 2.

Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery 55 – Tabora 25, Ezra 10, Mina 9, Pena 6, Tobias 2, Ortiz 2, Alano 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-8, 28-20, 44-32, 60-55.

Second Game

Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands 75 – Ja. Bahillo 23, Tabora 19, Je. Bahillo 12, Villegas 10, Geli 6, Zapata 3, Parcon 2.

Dandan/Hawaiian Rock 64 – Dela Cruz 18, Taragatar 10, Avila 8, Corotan 7, Marl. Ibanez 7, Enriquez 6, Tenepere 3, Renta 3, Marv. Ibanez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-13, 33-30, 51-43, 75-64

Third Game

Kagman/Destroyer 83 – Inos 35, Ito 16, Montes 10, Brillo 10, Detera 10, Villasan 2.

As Lito/Chow Queen 76 – Capalad 18, Tabamo 17, Wabinga 14, Lansang 13, Sevilla 8, Galvez 6.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 34-40, 56-59, 83-76.

TRENCH

From Page 28

Then in mid-December's Trench Warz 15: Supremacy, Alvarez put his title on the line against Guam's Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig (3-5) and lost the belt via split decision.

Wusstig's length gave Alvarez problems on the ground in what turned out to be a technical 25-minute grappling battle for the top position.

Alvarez tried to employ a standup dirty boxing technique from the clinch position with his opponent against the fence, but Wusstig kept wiggling out of it and stuck to his Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu game plan on the ground.

Rest assured, Cuki Alvarez said, a rematch is in the works between his son and Wusstig in 2012.

He added that he is also happy that Trench Tech has a healthy list of new and up-and-coming fighters, including new heavyweight phenom Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter (4-1), Shane Alvarez, Mark "The Dark" Nuique (7-0), Josh "Chaos" Duenas (2-1), amateur fighter Vince "The Clinch" Masga (2-0), Zalaka's Joe "Da Combo" Duenas (4-0), and Tinian kickboxer Regino Mundo (4-0) of team Zeng Zung.

Since beginning his career in November 2010, Lassiter racked up three consecutive first round wins before dropping his first bout against South Korea's Doo Hwan Kim (1-0) in Guam's Pacific X-Treme Combat 27 event. He, however, bounced back with a decisive win over Guam's Manny Chong (8-9) in Trench Warz 15.

Lassiter just signed a three-fight deal with PXC along with veteran and teammate Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (8-4) and one more Trench Tech fighter is expected to join the duo.

The candidates, in no particular order, include Shane Alvarez, Josh Duenas, Nuique, and Masga.

Notably, following the rematch Jesse is next in line for a shot at the Trench Tech featherweight title, while Lassiter is already set to face undefeated Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki of Guam in ROP 12: Unstoppable scheduled for March 16.

As for Shane Alvarez, Cuki Alvarez said his son has aspirations of competing off-island and hopes to be in the mainland by next year to work with some pros at the Master Lloyd Irvin MMA Gym in Camp Springs, Maryland.

Meanwhile, Cuki Alvarez said there is not much to say about Nuique other than the soft-spoken young gun is fearless and undefeated in seven fights.

Although Josh Duenas' stamina came up short in his last outing against Guam's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez, Cuki Alvarez sees the kid contending for a PXC bantamweight belt within the next two years.

He said 18-year-old Masga is one Trench Tech's hardest working students and is expected to face off-island competition from Guam in ROP12.

Much like Nuique, Joe Duenas is explosive, aggressive, and has skills.

If all goes well, Alvarez said these two may be featured in a battle of the undefeated fighters in Trench Warz 16 later this year.

Mundo is unbeaten as a K-1 kickboxer and is one of Cuki Alvarez's leading choices to take on Pacific Games Tae Kwon Do gold medalist Sonny Chargualaf of Guam in Rites of Passage 12.

It was not all roses for MMA in the CNMI, however, as a couple of talented fighters were put on suspension for violating Trench Tech's personal conduct policy, according to Cuki Alvarez.

He said Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (15-8) and "Badd" Brad Palacios (5-3) are suspended indefinitely for separate incidences of criminal behavior.

Palacios is banned from the cage for 2012, while Sablan may never be allowed back if he does not get his act straight. Sablan apparently served his time, but then violated his probation shortly thereafter.

For more information about Trench Tech, call 483-4MMA (4662) or 483-8670.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	_
Boston	3	3	.500	_
Toronto	2	3	.400	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1/2
New Jersey	1	5	.167	2

Southeast Division

Miami	5	1	.833	_
Atlanta	4	1	.800	1/2
Orlando	4	2	.667	1
Charlotte	1	3	.250	3
Washington	0	5	.000	4 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	4	1	.800	_
Chicago	4	1	.800	_
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	2	3	.400	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	3	2	.600	_
Houston	2	2	.500	1/2
New Orleans	2	2	.500	1/2
Dallas	2	4	.333	1Ω
Memphis	1	3	.250	1 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	5	1	.833	_
Portland	3	1	.750	1
Denver	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Utah	1	3	.250	3

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	2	2	.500	_
L.A. Lakers	3	3	.500	_
Phoenix	2	3	.400	1/2
Sacramento	2	3	.400	1/2
Golden State	2	3	.400	1/2

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 102, Golden State 91
Boston 100, Washington 92
Indiana 108, New Jersey 94
Detroit 89, Orlando 78
Atlanta 100, Miami 92
Toronto 90, New York 85
Minnesota 106, San Antonio 96
Dallas 100, Oklahoma City 87
Denver 91, Milwaukee 86
Utah 94, New Orleans 90

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, MIA	5	55	38	148	29.6
Durant, OKC	5	47	32	137	27.4
Griffin, LAC	4	40	24	104	26.0
Love, MIN	4	31	34	103	25.8
Anthony, NYK	4	27	40	100	25.0
Bryant, LAL	6	51	37	144	24.0
Bargnani, TOR	4	35	17	92	23.0
Jennings, MIL	3	23	17	68	22.7
Nowitzki, DAL	5	38	30	109	21.8
Anderson, ORL	5	36	9	102	20.4
Williams, PHL	4	24	24	81	20.3
Aldridge, POR	4	36	9	81	20.3
Wade, MIA	5	41	19	101	20.2
Thornton, SAC	5	36	16	100	20.0
Rose, CHI	5	32	27	99	19.8
Ginobili, SAN	4	26	14	79	19.8
Martin, HOU	4	27	10	77	19.3
Lee, GOL	4	30	15	75	18.8
Allen, BOS	5	30	17	93	18.6
Rondo, BOS	5	34	22	93	18.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hawes, PHL	23	34	.676
Monroe, DET	25	41	.610
Ginobili, SAN	26	43	.605
Gasol, MEM	18	30	.600
James, MIA	55	92	.598
Blair, SAN	26	44	.591
Wallace, POR	21	36	.583
Hibbert, IND	23	40	.575
Bosh, MIA	36	63	.571
White, CHA	20	35	.571

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	5	23	62	85	17.0
Love, MIN	4	25	36	61	15.3
Hawes, PHL	4	10	40	50	12.5
Bogut, MIL	3	7	26	33	11.0
Okafor, NOR	4	15	28	43	10.8
Hayes, SAC	5	18	35	53	10.6
Hibbert, IND	4	13	29	42	10.5
Camby, POR	4	11	31	42	10.5
McGee, WAS	4	14	27	41	10.3
Varejao, CLE	4	18	23	41	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Lowry, HOU	4	46	11.5
Rondo, BOS	5	50	10.0
Paul, LAC	4	39	9.8
Calderon, TOR	4	37	9.3
Rose, CHI	5	43	8.6
Nash, PHX	4	31	7.8
Ellis, GOL	3	23	7.7
Collison, IND	4	29	7.3
Rubio, MIN	4	29	7.3
Miller, DEN	5	36	7.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SML Softball Fundraising Tourney

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Titanium player snags a tricky foul ball at the third baseline fence against Peleliu during the Saipan Major League Softball fundraiser tournament held last Nov. 26 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

A Peleliu batter takes a swing against Titanium in the SML fundraiser softball tournament.

Peleliu's pitcher lofts in a pitch against Titanium.

A Titanium batter takes a swing against Peleliu during the SML fundraiser softball tournament held last November.

Titanium's pitcher lofts in a pitch against Peleliu.

Titanium's shortstop tries to turn two against Peleliu during the SML fundraiser softball tournament held last November.

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Hawks run away from Heat in 4th, win 100-92
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Time to peak, playoffs are here
PAGE 25

Thea aims for Jr. ITF points in NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After faltering in her bid to gain Junior ITF ranking points last year, CNMI netter Thea Minor will again try to earn that feat in New Zealand, starting this month.

Minor will have several chances of becoming the first female player from the CNMI to have Junior ITF ranking points, as she will be competing in three tournaments in New Zealand. She left Saipan last Sunday morning and is now in Australia as a member of the Oceania ITF Touring Team and will be traveling to New Zealand on Jan. 18 in time for her first event.

The CNMI netter's first competition in New Zealand will be the

See THEA on Page 26

Thea Minor is seen in this file photo taken during a local tournament late last year. She is now in Australia and will travel to New Zealand later this month to fight for Junior ITF ranking points. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech takes good with bad in 2011

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions had a lot to be thankful for in 2011, but no less than the company's president Cuki Alvarez admitted that mixed martial arts took a beating from the bad decisions made by a couple of fighters last year.

Alvarez said 2011 marked the year that Trench Tech unveiled its first-ever featherweight title belt, which provided two classic bouts that both went the distance.

The first pairing was between Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Peligro" Rangamar (3-10) and Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (7-1) in September's Rites Of Passage: 11 Onra.

They battled it out for five five-minute rounds with Alvarez receiving the nod with his superior wrestling skills.

See TRENCH on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Team Relentless' Rentz Benghit, left and Zalaka's John Ilo both connect with left hooks in their 145-lb K-1 kickboxing match in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy held last December at the Saipan World Resort.

San Antonio takes solo lead; Chalan Kiya, Kagman win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Antonio/Gene's Barber closed out the year on top of the team standings in Bracket A of the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League after beating Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery, 60-55, on Christmas Day at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

San Antonio now has a 6-1 record in the nine-team field, one win ahead of JHEM's Restaurant (5-1). Chalan Kanoa dropped to a 4-2 record and now shares third place with Susupe/Armatech. Koblerville/GEC (3-4), Chalan Laulau/AON (2-3), Tanapag/FGC (2-3), San Jose CP Repair (0-5), and Puerto Rico/Triskellion (0-5) complete the field.

Jack Aranda made two free throws in the home stretch to seal the win for San Antonio. He finished with 13 markers, just one point behind San Antonio's leading scorer Bryl Alegre.

Jun Tabora led all scorers with 25, but still failed to lift his team to a win

See SAN ANTONIO on Page 26

Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands' Dante Tabora, seen here puling up for a free throw during their game against San Roque/Morales in the MDX caging early last month, scored 19 points in their 75-64 win over Dandan/Hawaiian Rock last Dec. 25 at the Civic Center Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMASA to select top awardees for 2011

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The best of the best will be selected tomorrow when the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association picks the top performers for 2011.

NMASA in its monthly meeting tomorrow night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will be selecting the Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year, Team of the Year, Coach of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and the inductee to the 2011 CNMI Hall of Fame.

Except for the athletes and student athletes of the year nominees, all nominations should be put in writing on each federation's letterhead.

Nominees for the top athletes for 2011 can come from the list of win-

See NMASA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMASA president Michael White delivers a brief message during the 2010 NMASA Awards Banquet at the Saipan Grand Hotel. White and other NMASA officials/members will select tomorrow the top performers of 2011.